Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve December 24, 2024 7:00 PM

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



Welcome to Worship!
As we prepare for worship, we invite you to a time of silence and focus.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP: It is our joy to welcome you to worship today, in-person and from wherever you may be viewing. We give thanks for whatever brought you, and pray that you may experience the love of God surrounding you and upholding you as we gather to give thanks to God through Word and Sacrament.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available to use in the Sanctuary for worship. They are located in the Sound Booth; ask the Sound Booth operator if you would like to use one.

WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED in the Faith and Family Center (located near the entrance doors to the large parking lot). Anyone is welcome to worship in that space.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN WORSHIP! Like Jesus who welcomed children to his ministry, Saint Andrew's welcomes children to our worship services. Re-usable activity bags (for readers and non-readers) with books, stickers, crayons, paper, and a snack are available from the usher/hospitality team; please return the bags following worship.

- "Younger Disciples Tips" are in the bulletin with ideas to engage children in worship.
- "A Time for Younger Disciples" during worship invites all God's children to listen to a message.

Health Practices in place to help reduce the spread of viruses and illness:

- Mask wearing is optional. Anyone who wishes to mask is welcome to do so.
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building.

For other activities, events, meetings check our website: https://SALC.church

VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING IN PROGRESS

Saint Andrews livestreams and records its worship services to YouTube.
Video and Audio recording is currently in progress. It is possible that video footage and/or audio conversations of worshippers in the Saint Andrew's Sanctuary may appear on the YouTube livestream/recording.

Gathering

PRELUDE

"Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen"

comp. Michael Praetorius, arr. Mark Questad

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" arr. Anne McGinty

"Poston: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" comp. Elizabeth Poston

"Il Est Ne" arr. Mark Questad

"Up! Good Christen Folk and Listen"

comp. George Ratcliffe Woodward

Brass Quintet

"Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming"

Handbell Choir

Carl Wiltse

Luke Davis, Piano

WELCOME Pastor Lara

Please stand as you are able.

Worship leaders will say text in light print. Congregation will say/respond with bold text

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Rejoice and sing, for Christ is born! **Praise the Creator! Praise the Messiah!**Today is born the Savior, Emmanuel, God with us! **Oh come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

People of God, hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus + we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

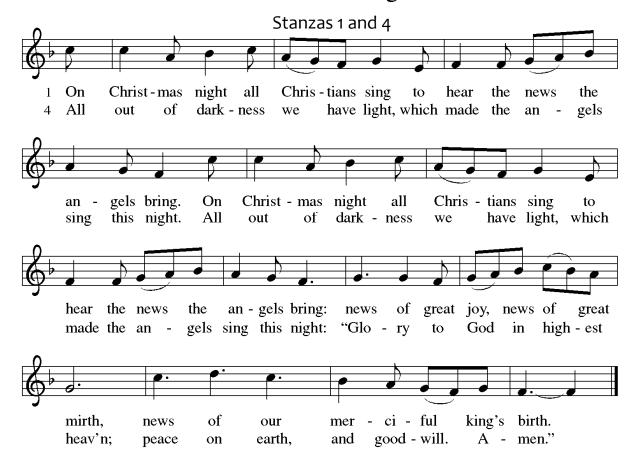
APOSTOLIC GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

On Christmas Night



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. Almighty God,

you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

MUSIC

"Angels' Carol" Sopranos and Altos of the Chancel Choir

Sir John Rutter

Word

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life.

MUSIC

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Brass Quintet

arr. Anne McGinty

Younger Disciples Tip: If you have a Spark Story Bible, this story is on page 212. God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

READING Luke 2:1-3

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

HYMN Once in Royal David's City roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood Once in low - ly cat - tle shed, He came down to earth from heav-en who God and Lord of is all, And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love; Not in that poor low - ly sta-ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by, where a moth-er laid her ba - by in man - ger for bed: a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was and his shel-ter was a gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a that child so dear bove; and heav - en, set at God's right hand shall see him; but in high;

that moth-er mild,

chil - dren gath - er round, bright like

his chil-dren on

and meek and low-ly, lived on

Mar - y

and he

there his

with the poor

was

leads

READING Luke 2:4-5

Je - sus

to the

Christ, her

earth

place

stars,

lit - tle

our Sav-ior

where he is

with glo-ry

child.

ho-ly.

gone.

crowned.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem



READING Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Away in a Manger



READING Luke 2:8-12

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

HYMN

The First Noel



READING Luke 2:13-14

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



READING Luke 2:15-16

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



READING Luke 2:17-20

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Lara

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Trusting in God's baptismal promises, we affirm our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Younger Disciples Tip ~ Prayers/Offering: Invite children to write down who they want to pray for this week and one way they can serve their family/community.

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Loving God, you sent your Son to a world waiting and struggling with sin,

As we gather here we prepare a place for you tonight,

We long for your arrival,

For all the hope that rests in your birth,

For the peace and stability that you bring into this chaotic world.

Our very bones ache for the presence of the word made flesh among us, We wait in anticipation to receive the Christ-child to dwell among us.

And soon the angels will be singing, the stars will be set,

The whole of creation will have been witness,

The rocks will cry out Hallelujah to the miracle of this new incarnation, of Emmanuel, God with us.

We stand in awe, of this great love that enters into our life,

The light in the darkness, shining on truth and casting out injustice.

The peace of the world held in the arms of a new young mother,

A peace for the sick and the broken-hearted, for the lonely and the lost, for all who hurt or struggle,

A peace that has never been known before, wrapped in swaddling clothes.

You come to us, this Christmastide, holding hopes and expectations,

As a newborn babe, in a stable, to bring us light and life, redeeming the world.

Open our hearts and minds, that we might hear the miracle of the promise that comes lying in a manger,

A miracle so full of wonder and awe, that the angels, shepherds and stars proclaim its majesty.

Open our hearts to make room for the birth of promise, justice, love, in this place tonight. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

If you are worshiping online, we encourage you to post the peace on a social media platform.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Lara

MUSIC "A Baby in the Cradle" Barbara B. Kinyon

The Chancel Choir and Handbell Ensemble

OFFERING Our ushers will be passing offering plates. We welcome your gifts to support the mission and ministry of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church. There are envelopes in the pews, or you can give online using the QR code.

Please stand as you are able.



OFFERTORY VERSE



OFFERTORY PRAYER

We pray together. God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Meal

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, blessed and broke it and shared it with his friends, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with his friends, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated. We wait silently as the participants who are worshiping online are communed.



LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is received continuously at two stations.

Please follow the directions of the ushers and use the hand sanitizer provided.

Bread is placed in the hands. Red wine and White grape juice are offered by individual cup.

Please ask if you would like a gluten-free option.

If you wish to be communed in your seat, please let one of the ushers/hospitality team know.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Angels We Have Heard on High



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

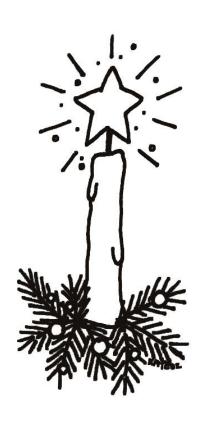
Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

The ushers will light candles at the end of each pew. Please hold the lit candle straight, while the person with the unlit candle lights theirs. Continue down the pew until all candles are lit.

We will sing Silent Night as candles are lit.



HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!



Please extinguish your candle as directed.

Sending

BLESSING

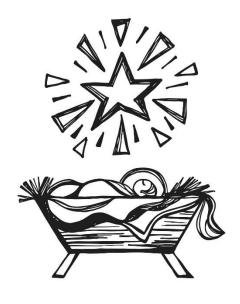
May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. **Amen.**

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of the Holy Trinity be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World



SENDING (dismissal)

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE Gaudete! arr. Anne McGinty

Brass Quintet



Thank you to all who are assisting with worship today:

Pastor Lara Forbes, Presiding and Preaching

Dr. Will Simpson, Director of Music

Michele and David Vossler, Lectors

Shana Nielson, Assisting Minister

Elaine Koga, Accompanist

Sonja Wetmore, Acolyte

Ron Ryan and Art Gurtel, Ushers

Amy Baro, Joe Baro, Joyce Arnold, Greeters

Jay Baxter and Karin Eklof, Altar Guild

Mary Davis and Sharon Gurtel, Audio

Kurt Lutterman, Livestream video

Thank you to these talented musicians:

Karin Islip, violin

Natalia Kitaeva, violin

Anna Simpson, flute

Mary Davis, trumpet

Erik Newsum, trumpet

Gavin Islip, trombone

Abby Kasper, bass

Michael Lundquist, trumpet

Richard Carey, trumpet

Matthew Anderson, horn

Ryan Wagner, trombone

Seth Tompkins, tuba



We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation



