

Rísen Christ Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 2023 4:30pm & 7pm

REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH YOUR WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.



Risen Christ Lutheran Church 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info **ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION** – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ's body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by takin g it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the "individual" and "common" cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby ("Narthex")

For Children – Children's Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

AS WE GATHER – When something is important, we attach a lofty word to it. So it is today. Christmas rejoices in the *incarnation*. That is of Latin origin, confessing that the Son of God is *in the flesh*. A chief mystery of the Christian faith, the eternal God takes on human flesh.

How can this be? St. Augustine marveled at the incarnation in which the Creator of all things enters His creation, in which He enters a womb that He had formed. It transcends our minds, for God transcends our minds.

Yet we confess the incarnation; we believe it; we rejoice in it for we receive unending blessings from it. God in human flesh brings all God's blessings to humans. Chief among them is His grace. John speaks of the incarnation, saying that the Word became flesh. And then he tells us the divine purpose for the incarnation. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Our Triune God offers His grace for the whole world. Repent and trust Him at His Word.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

"One Solitary Life" a reading by Kim Cook

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 9:6

ightharpoonup In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

- **P** For to us a child is born,
- To us a son is given;
- P And the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- And His name shall be called
- P Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
- **©** Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him Born the king of angels: Refrain

<u>REFRAIN:</u> O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2. Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin,
a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **REFRAIN**

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest: **REFRAIN**

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be All glory giv'n! Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *REFRAIN*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- (When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4–7). Let us welcome our newborn Savior with penitent hearts that trust in His grace.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I as an Under-Shepherd of the Good Shepherd speak His words to you: "I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- C Amen.

KYRIE (spoken)

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.

- P For peace from the child born to us and the salvation He won for us, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the peace of the whole world of which the angels sang, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For this holy house and for all who fill it with Christmas carols, their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- G Amen.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **P** Let us pray.
 - O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.
- Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;
- P through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

- A The Old Testament Reading for the Nativity of Our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter fifty-two.
 - ⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
 - ⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
 - ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem.
 - ¹⁰ The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

PSALM 2

- A Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
 - The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
- (A) "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
- A Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying,
 - "As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill."

Away in a Manger

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

- A I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You.
 - Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.
- A You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Away in a Manger

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

- Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- A Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

EPISTLE Hebrews 1:1–6

- **A** The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapter one.
 - ¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.
 - ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"?

Or again, "I will be to Him a father, and He shall be to Me a son"?

- ⁶ And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "Let all God's angels worship Him."
- A This is the Word of the Lord.

 Thanks be to God.

What Child Is This

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

- 2. Why lies He in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
 The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 The virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

HOLY GOSPEL READINGS FROM LUKE AND JOHN

Luke 2:1-12

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With the-angelic host proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb, Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the-incarnate Deity! Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth,
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹² But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON – "Grace for the Whole World"

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at **www.RisenChrist.info** Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

"O Holy Night" sung by Esther Kaufmann

SECOND ARTICLE OF THE CREED (with explanation from Luther's Small Catechism)

- I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- **P** What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P God's own Son is born a child. God the Father is reconciled. So, with all boldness and confidence, let us bring our needs before His throne of grace.

Brief silence

- <u>MEN –</u> Lord God, heavenly Father, as the shepherds praised Your Son at the angelic news, so fill Your Church throughout the world with joy that all Your people would remain steadfast with faith in Him. God's own Son is born a child,
- **G** God the Father is reconciled.
- <u>WOMEN -</u> As the angels announced that their tidings were for joy throughout the world, so cause Your Word to go throughout the world that the Holy Spirit might bring many to faith in Christ. God's own Son is born a child.
- **G** God the Father is reconciled.
- <u>MEN</u> Lord Jesus Christ, as the sages brought You gifts from afar, so accept the offerings we present to You. God's own Son is born a child,
- **G** God the Father is reconciled.
- <u>WOMEN –</u> Heavenly Father, as Your Son came lowly to free us from all sorrow wholly, visit with grace and mercy all those who are afflicted in mind and spirit, assuring them of Your grace and mercy. God's own Son is born a child.
- **G** God the Father is reconciled.
- <u>MEN –</u> Lord Jesus Christ, as our songs echo the song of Mary, so accept our thanks for all the faithful who have gone before us. Keep us steadfast in the true faith that we may join them in life everlasting by Your merit. God's own Son is born a child,
- **G** God the Father is reconciled.
- <u>WOMEN –</u> Heavenly Father, Your Son came in meekness to bear our weakness. So deliver all those who are sick and injured. If it be Your will, grant them healing in this life. Work amid their affliction to assure them of the full healing awaiting them in life everlasting. God's own Son is born a child,
- **G** God the Father is reconciled.
- <u>MEN -</u> Lord Jesus Christ, You are God ever reigning and have gained manhood through Mary. Grant us confidence that only You can make satisfaction for sin so that with boldness and confidence in You we may never falter. God's own Son is born a child,
- **G** God the Father is reconciled.

- <u>WOMEN -</u> O Holy Spirit, in Christ the sheep are safe for He will indeed take care of them. As Christ feeds us with His own body and blood, work in us that we may receive this blessed meal in true faith. God's own Son is born a child,
- **G** God the Father is reconciled.
- P These our prayers we lift to You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for You live and reign, one God, now and forever.
- Amen.

PREFACE

- **P** The Lord be with you.
 - And also with you.
- P The Lord be with you.
 - And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.

 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 It is right to give Him thanks and praise

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Angels We Have Heard on High

 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo. 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive Him who is born that by His death He should win for all the world free grace supplying and who comes to us with His body and blood under bread and wine. Strengthen us by Your Spirit that we faithfully receive Christ's body and blood that we may live by Your Word, bringing glory to Your name.
- Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD (Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25)

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9–13)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **G** Amen.

Angels We Have Heard on High

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

COMMUNION

"Mary did You Know" sung by Esther Kaufmann

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting light.
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

3. How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You have sent Your Son into the flesh, all the world free grace supplying. Receive our thanks for Your grace given to us with His body and blood. Grant us Your Spirit that we may live by Your grace in faith toward You and in love toward others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Joy to the World

- Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
 And heav'n and nature sing,
 And heav'n and nature sing.
 And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let men their songs employ,
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, wonders of His love.

Lighting of the Candles

1 John 1:5-7; Matthew 5:14-16

- The Child in the manger at Bethlehem, the Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory. As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.
- If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
- P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,
- and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Closing Prayer

O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! (in German first)

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! Alles schläft. Eynsam wacht Nur das traute heilige Paar. Holder Knab' im lockigten Haar, 'Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!'

Silent Night

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

BENEDICTION

- The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and → give you peace.
- C Amen.

Acknowledgments

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