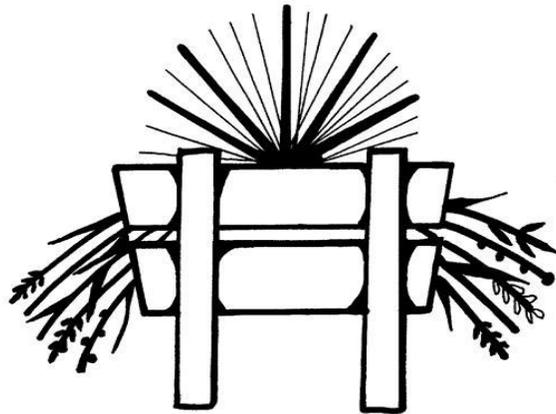


ST. MATTHEW'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Proclaiming the Love of God for All People



December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP
December 24, 2021 6:30 PM

We welcome all today and are thankful you have chosen to participate in this service as you are able. We pray you are blessed by what you experience. If you have any spiritual needs or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Lesley at 817-292-1338 or pastor@stmatthews-elca.org. This service includes communion; if you are worshipping online, please have bread or crackers and wine or juice available to participate in the Eucharist.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven. **C. Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

You may kneel, sit or remain standing. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Merciful God, **C. we seek to be like the shepherds, who dropped everything and came to your manger. Instead at times, we are like Herod, looking out for our own good and our own needs. Forgive us.**

This most holy night, we confess our sins against you and against one another, and pray that you will fill us with the love of the one born this night in the manger. Forgive us because of Jesus' sacrifice. Help us to follow the true light of the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

P. Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! We are loved and forgiven in the name of Jesus, who has come among us. We are freed from proving that we deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to us as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN 283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

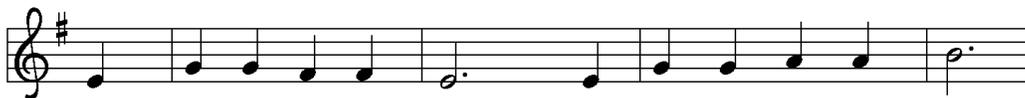
Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

GREETING

P. The light of our Lord Jesus Christ, the warmth of God the Creator, and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C. Today and every day. Amen.

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A. Let us pray: **C. 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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

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!

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 9:

- ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.
- ³You 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.
- ⁴For 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.
- ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For 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.
- ⁷His 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. **C. Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

A reading from Titus, chapter 2:

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20

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.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

GOSPEL HYMN 277 "Away in a Manger" vs. 1-2

AWAY IN A MANGER

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

GOSPEL HYMN 289 "Angels We Have Heard on High" v. 1

GLORIA

**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.**

*Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864
Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958*

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

GOSPEL HYMN 276 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

W ZLOBIE LEZY

**1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!**

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. Music: Polish carol

The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Lesley M. Radius

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN 267 "Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH; Text Isaac Watts (1674-1748)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

CHRISTMAS TESTIMONY OF FAITH

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings life to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God; the need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, and the need of love for hearts grown cold.

A brief silence.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.
Enliven your church that it might carry good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bring your light to all the world.
Amen.**

PEACE

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C. And also with you.

Please be seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"The First Noel"

arr. Dan Forrest

Noel, Noel, Born is the King, Noel.

The first Noel, the angels did say, Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay, In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.	They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far. And to the earth it gave great light. And so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.
---	---

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Noel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King, Noel, Noel.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray. **C. Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION *A Sung Communion Liturgy for Christmas Eve*
(The congregation will sing the words in bold to the tune of Greensleeves.)

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.
We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.

Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

God breathed in us the breath of life. God gave the gift of Eden.
We turned away and sin was born. We sought for greener gardens.

Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

God called to us from age to age through messengers and prophets,
when we would not our hearts give way, the Word-made-flesh God sent us.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

O Holy God of power and might! Hosanna in excelsis!
Blessed be the one who in your name comes! Hosanna in the highest!

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, comes to live among us!
He preached good news: the kingdom come! A light shone in the darkness.

Nail, 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.

And on the night he was betrayed, Christ took the bread and broke it.
Thanking God, he shared this gift. "Remember me, when you eat it!"

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.

He took the cup and raised it up. "My life I pour out for you.
From sin, set free! Remember me! We covenant anew."

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.

Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.
Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!

Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

ORGAN MEDITATION

After all have communed, please stand as you are able.

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **C. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus name we pray. **C. Amen.**

As the following gospel is read, you may light your candle from your neighbor (or shine a light if you are online) – please dip your candle into your neighbor's flame and turn to share the light with the next person in your pew, keeping your candle upright. Your candle or light may remain lit through the Blessing on the next page.

GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-14

The holy gospel according to St. John, the first chapter. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN 281 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

STILLE NACHT

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,
heav'nly 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr John F. Young, 1820-1995 Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

BLESSING

P. May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **C. Amen.**

Candles are extinguished.

SENDING HYMN 290 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

Refrain
Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

BENEDICTION

C. Amen.

THE SENDING

A. Go in peace. Christ is born! **C. Amen. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

* * * * *

International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved Printed in U.S.A. One License.net license A-717433
Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27628.
Livestreaming and music licenses current through CCLI Licenses #20809385, 20809402 & 20809392

<p><u>We Pray For:</u> Craig Bridges T. J. Bridges Annasophia Reese Barbara Reid Tommy and Diane Higgs Phil and Anne Moroneso Terry and Pam Slotsve Kathy Challgren Sarah Manske</p>	<p>Mendi Bernens Co-teacher with Cindy Kohn Chris Johnson Nephew of Marj Rudolph Ron Kohn Uncle of Cindy Kohn Russ Tellio Brother-in-law of Pr. Lesley</p>
---	---

LEADING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Presiding Minister: Rev. Lesley M. Radius	Assisting Minister: Charles Schmidt
Choir Director: Adam Frame	Lector: Karen Stone
Chancel Care: Marcia Boggs	Organist/Pianist: John Wolf
Ushers: John Reed, Phil Beckman	Videographer: Jacob Martella

NEXT WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

SUNDAY, December 26, First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am Book of Common Prayer Worship, led by St. Christopher
9:30 am Joint Worship of Lessons and Carols

FRIDAY, December 31

Church Offices will be closed.

SUNDAY, January 2

8:00 am Book of Common Prayer Worship, led by St. Christopher
9:30 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Christopher
11:00 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Matthew's

DONORS OF THE POINSETTIAS

Name

In Honor/Memory of

Lauren Anderson	In loving memory of Bill Anderson
Terry and Marcia Boggs	In thanksgiving for family
Louis and Cynthia Eichenberger	In memory of Harold and Delores Eichenberger
	In memory of Wilma Eichenberger
	In memory of Charles Chmiel and Ronald Edwards
Daryl and Sarah Hadfield	With praise and thanksgiving to God
Win and Sandy Heinrich	In memory of son Eddie
Renee Hill	In memory of mom Marjorie Jellison
Mary Nedde	In memory of Paul Nedde
	In memory of Norma and Norman Nedde and Walter and Margaret Wegner
Rev. Lesley M. Radius	In memory of Bert and Marie Radius
	In honor of her family
	In thanksgiving for St. Matthew's Council and staff
John and Lisa Reed	In honor of the Klade and Reves families
Kelly Riddle	In memory of Grandmother Lily Thomas
Riddle Family	In memory of brothers Isiah and Elijah Lopez
David and Sylvia Wester	In memory of David's daughter Wendi Prentice
	In memory of David's son, David Layne
Faye Youngblood	In memory of Grandma Anna Louise
	In honor of grandchildren Wyatt, Cody and Abbey

ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT

Living in Christ through faith. Living for neighbor through love.

We are Reconciling in Christ; welcoming to all!

CHURCH STAFF

Lesley M. Radius, Pastor
Adam Frame, Director of Music Ministries
John Wolf, Organist/Pianist
Kelly Riddle, Office Assistant and Ready, Set, Go! Center Site Coordinator
Mary Nedde, Administrative Assistant
Jocelyne Angeles, C.J. Waiters, Valerie Dyke, Nursery Attendants

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

5709 Wedgwood Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133
817-292-1338 | office@stmatthews-elca.org | www.stmatthews-elca.org