

## **“Merry Christmas!” Now What?**

December 24, 2021 7:00 PM

### **As We Gather**

Our Christmas observance is heavily weighted toward preparation. A lot of planning and activity leads up to our celebration of the Savior’s birth. But God intends for His gifts to us to have ongoing impact and blessing in our lives. Tonight, as we celebrate the birth of the Savior, we also focus on our response to this gift. How did the angels respond? How did Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds respond? We will consider their response and what it teaches us about how God is calling us to respond.

### **Prelude**

#### **“O Holy Night”**

O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth

Truly He taught us to love one another  
His law is love and His gospel is peace  
Chains He shall break, for the slave is our  
brother  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us praise His holy name

Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices  
O night divine,  
O night when Christ was born  
O night divine, O night, O night divine

Christ is the Lord, oh praise His name forever  
His power and glory, evermore proclaim  
His power and glory, evermore proclaim  
His power and glory, evermore proclaim

### **Welcome**

#### **+ GATHERING +**

#### **Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)**

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
and heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

An overflowing well no tongue can tell  
Joy unspeakable joy  
It rises in my soul never lets me go

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

Joy unspeakable joy  
An over-flowing well no tongue can tell  
Joy unspeakable joy  
It rises in my soul never lets me go

Joy unspeakable joy

## Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## Psalm 100

Pastor: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People: **Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.**

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.

People: **For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.**

All: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was, is now and shall be forever. Amen.**

## “Angels We Have Heard on High” LSB 368

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why Your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire Your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

### Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

## Prayer

## Readings

### Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered

the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.  
<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**New Testament Reading** *Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Choral Anthem**

*Sanctuary Choir*

Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor.  
April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders  
At the holy unseen pow'r of the tree which bears a flow'r.  
On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flow'r.  
On the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden,  
Full and strong in glory.

In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.  
All the world lay underneath. Eyes were closed in sleeping.  
But, when all seemed lost in night,  
Came the sun whose golden light brings unending joy,  
Brings the endless joy of our hope,  
Highest hope, of our hope's bright dawning,  
Son below'd of heaven.

Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens.  
In the Lily's purest flow'r dwells a wondrous fragrance.  
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth;  
And its beauty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r,  
And it spreads in its heav'nly brightness  
Sweet perfume delightful.

### **Holy Gospel** *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ!**

## **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Sermon**

*"Merry Christmas! Now What?"*

## **Prayers**

## **Offering**

*"Away in a Manger"*

*Pastor Mike, Heidi Newman, Andrea Clark*

## **The Service of Holy Communion**

### **Prayer**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People: 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 Words of Institution**

Pastor: 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."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

## Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

People: **Amen.** *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

People: **Amen.**  
*(Take and drink)*

## Communion Hymns

### “What Child is This” LSB 370

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!	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!
Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.	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!

### “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!”

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 men to dwell, Jesus our Emanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heavenborn Prince of Peace, hail the Son 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!”

*Please take a candle as you return from Communion.*

## Communion Blessing

### “Silent Night”

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

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!  
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

### Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

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“O Holy Night” by Jeremy Riddle, Adolphe Charles Adam, John S. Dwight, and Placide Cappeau

### Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Brett Carey
Communion Assistants	Mike Newton, Joel Wahlers, Gerry Schneider, Greg Stringer
Sound Technician	Bill Clark
Streaming Technicians	Joshua Wright
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Ushers	The De Young Family
Projection Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Worship Band	Chris Vecera, Christopher Newman, Jeff Craft, Pastor Mike Schmid, Andrea Clark, Heidi Newman, Gabriel Gutierrez, Jacob Bartelt