

Christmas Eve
“A Savior Has Been Born To You”

December 24, 2022 7:00 PM

As We Gather

The angel told Mary that she had found favor with God. But the circumstances surrounding her pregnancy and the birth of her son seem anything but favorable. It almost seems as though God was trying to stack the deck against them, with so many difficulties to navigate all at once. Why did God seem to make things so difficult for Mary and Joseph? What does this say to us today? We look this evening at the familiar account of Jesus’ birth, and see in it a powerful teaching of the grace of God for those going through hard times.

Prelude

“Angels”

(Pastor Mike, Erika Boudreaux, Heidi Newman)

Welcome and Announcements

+ Gathering +

“Joy to the World”

1 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 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.

3 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.

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.

*(Andy Schweiger - aerophone, Heidi Newman - violin,
Megan Schweiger - percussion, Erin Blackwood - piano)*

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.**

"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 Immanuel
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Chorus

And the angels they sing
And the heavens they ring
Won't you raise up your voice
Join the song of the King
Singing glory to God and Peace on the earth
Sing it out now the song of the 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

Chorus

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.
³You 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.
⁴ 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.
⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.
⁶ 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.
⁷ 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. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ 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!

"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**

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. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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.

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

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

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

¹⁵ 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."

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

"A Savior Has Been Born To You"

Prayers

Offering

Choral Anthem

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Arr. Dan Forrest Sanctuary Choir

+ 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

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” LSB 366

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

All you, beneath Your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow,
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him, the angels sing!

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth,
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

“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!

Please take a candle as you return from Communion.

Communion Blessing

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,

“Silent Night” LSB 363

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)

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Serving in Worship Tonight

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Liturgist	Kevin Mathison
Lay Readers	Susan Clark
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Communion Assistants	Paula Schweiger, Gerry Schneider, Mike Newton
Usher	Penni Cremen
Projection Technician	Dawn Wahlers
Musicians	Pastor Mike Schmid, Judi & Steve Rock, Neill Barker, Andy Schweiger, Chris & Heidi Newman