

## A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 25, 2022



LESSONS  
& CAROLS

*Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

### OPENING DIALOG...

P As we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	<i>(vs 1 &amp; 2) ELW #269</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Genesis 1:1-5	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Love Has Come</i>	<i>(vs 1 &amp; 3) ELW #292</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Lo, How a Rose Is Growing</i>	<i>(vs 1 &amp; 2) ELW #272</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading	Micah 5:2-5a	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	<i>(vs 1 &amp; 4) ELW #279</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> Reading	Luke 1:26-35, 38	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels</i>	<i>(vs 1 &amp; 2) ELW #270</i>
5 <sup>th</sup> Reading	Luke 2:1, 3-7	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	<i>(vs 1 &amp; 3) ELW #294</i>
6 <sup>th</sup> Reading	Luke 2:8-16	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>From the Realms of Glory</i>	<i>(vs 1, 2,3) ELW #275</i>
7 <sup>th</sup> Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>What Child Is This</i>	<i>(vs 1 &amp; 3) ELW #296</i>
8 <sup>th</sup> Reading	John 1:1-14	
<i>*Hymn</i>	<i>Good Christian Friend, Rejoice</i>	<i>(vs 1 &amp; 2) ELW #385</i>

## NICENE CREED

P Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## \*THE PRAYERS

P With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

P The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

P In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **C Amen**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness.

### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through hi all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C 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.**

### **INVITATION**

P Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

### **BLESSING**

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

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Let us pray...* Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

*Hymn*

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*ELW #290*

### **\*THE DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **C Thanks be to God.**

### **\*POSTLUDE**

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and  
that our worship service is video recorded.

**Please be advised that worship services are recorded and/or  
live-streamed on social media.**

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God by Tina Harclerode and Family in honor of the men and women serving in the military who won't be home for Christmas.

**Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Organist – Mary Nelson

Our Missionary Family – On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orzeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Lectors – Jane Fagans, Martie Gilbert, Elaine Smith, Linda Smith

Our Altar Guild – Jackie Lightner, Jane Fagans

Our Usher – Tina Harclerode

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*United Lutheran Seminaries*”**

**This Week at St. Matthew:**

**814-793-2413**

**Office Hours**

Pastor Traci – No office hours this week

Lori Tremmel – No office hours this week

**This Week Events**

**Today –**

Monday – No Scouts

Sunday – Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Tue., Jan. 3 - Church Office Hours will resume 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Prayers and Christian Sympathy** go to the family of Don Smith upon his death on Sunday, December 18, 2022.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Bonnie Brobst, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Lindsey Garrison, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Audrey Kensinger, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Kay McGraw, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Paul Ruth, Hunter Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Our college students:** Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

**Those Serving in the Army Overseas:** Nathan Smith (Germany), Melody Estep.

### Christmas Greetings

*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. Luke 2:15-16*

Some people say that shepherds have it easy—all they do is stand in a field and watch sheep. Well, that isn't all they do and if you know anything about sheep, you know that a shepherd's job can be frustrating. Sheep are not the brightest of animals; they have a mind of their own; they scare easily and don't see well enough to get anywhere on their own. That's why they need a shepherd. The shepherds who were watching their flocks by night in the Christmas story from Luke can add courage to their resumé.

An angel appeared out of nowhere with a message about a sign from God which terrified them. Then, they decided, even in their fear, to go, see and tell.

We don't know how far they traveled or how many sheep they had to manage on the way to Bethlehem. We do know that when they arrived in Bethlehem they found exactly what the angel proclaimed: a baby wrapped in bands of cloth lying in a manger and two ordinary people watching over this little one who would grow into the Savior of the world.

Going and seeing are not easy things to do—even if you have a message from an angel explaining what you will find. The real test of courage might be what comes next. The story tells us the shepherds "...made known what had been told them about this child." They told the story of Jesus to all whom they met.

As we celebrate this season, you are invited to be like the shepherds: go, see, and tell. Go to the place where you hear the message of Jesus faithfully proclaimed; see the way Jesus is opening for you to tell others of his love, grace and mercy. If it's scary, remember what the angel told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid."

Merry Christmas.

+Bishop Paula, Pastor Kevin and Michelle



### Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from St. Matthew will be helping and assisting in the distribution of food on Thursdays, January 5 and January 19 from 9-11:00 a.m.

**The January items most needed are:** Cereal, Fruit, Pasta or Rice Sides, Ravioli, Laundry Detergent.

Our thanks to all who have contributed food, paper supplies or monetary gifts during this past year. We ask for your continued support and prayers in serving needy families during 2023!

*Linda K. Smith*

