

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service

*Christmas*

**Introduction for the Day:** On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

## Gathering

Prelude

*In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. by Mark Hayes

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Call to Worship

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

**Let earth receive her King.**

All God's people

**Come and worship!**

Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels

**Come and worship Christ, the newborn King!**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made  
flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**Amen.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, in the face of Jesus Christ.**

In his name let us make confession of our sins. For his sake let us seek forgiveness.

**The Lord has come! Prepare to welcome him with the open arms of faith.**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Most merciful God,

**We are not worthy to receive the gifts you give, for we have sinned. Let us welcome him with the open arms of faith. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

**The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

**#275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Litany for the First Sunday of Christmas

The birth of Christ has come and the news of his salvation is being proclaimed.

**We praise our Messiah who has come at long last.**

O Babe of Bethlehem, your birth opens up a new world to us.

**Help us to learn more and more about you and your love for us.**

Jesus, you spent time in God's house teaching, preaching, and praying.

**Increase our desire to spend more time in worship at church and at home.**

Christ Jesus, the one and only Word Made Flesh,

**we embrace the new life of faith you give to us by your birth.**

Apostolic Greeting

Good news of great joy, light and grace and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## *In the Beginning Was the Word*

### Word

*(Please be seated)*

First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord's house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

*Just as newly baptized Christians, in the early church, were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

## Gospel Acclamation

## #274 On Christmas Night [Stanzas 1 &amp; 2]

1. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to hear the new\_\_ the  
 2. Then why should we on earth\_\_ be sad, since our re - deem - er

an - gels bring. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to  
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth\_\_ be sad, since

hear the news\_\_ the an - gels bring: news of great joy,\_\_ news  
 our re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sing\_\_ he

of\_\_ great mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful\_\_ king's birth.  
 set\_\_ us free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686. Music: English traditional. Tune: Sussex Carol.

## Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Gospel Response

## #274 On Christmas Night [Stanzas 3 &amp; 4]

3. When sin de - parts be - fore\_\_ his face, then life and health\_ come  
4. All out of dark - ness we\_\_ have light, which made the an - gels  
in its place. When sin de - parts be - fore\_\_ his face, then  
sing this night. All out of dark - ness we\_\_ have light, which  
life and health\_ come in its place. An - gels re - joice\_\_ with  
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God\_\_ in  
us\_\_ and sing, all for to see the new - born king.  
high - est heav'n; peace on earth, and good - will.\_ A - men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686. Music: English traditional. Tune: Sussex Carol.

*(Please be seated)*

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

**Note about the artwork for today:** *The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple* (1854–60) is a painting by William Holman Hunt intended as an ethnographically accurate version [Hunt had travelled to the Middle East to create the picture, using local people as models and studying ancient Judaic customs and rituals] of the child Jesus debating the interpretation of the scripture with learned rabbis. Hunt depicts the moment at which Mary and Joseph find Jesus, while the rabbis in the temple are reacting in various contrasting ways to his discourse, some intrigued, and others angry or dismissive.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Hymn of the Day

#269 Once in Royal David's City

*Prayer Cards will be collected during the hymn of the day.*

Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

**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.**

*(Please be seated)*

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let  
us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you,  
confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

At the birth of Christ the angels sang a song of peace and goodwill. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## *And the Word was Made Flesh*

### Meal

*(Please be seated)*

Musical Offering

*What Child Is This?* arr. by David Schwoebel

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Offertory Carol

**#284 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime**

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Son to join our human family.

**“Why were you searching for me?” he said. “Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?”**

And by our Savior's presence here, you offer us entry into your holy family.

**We are your children. Accept these gifts with joy.**

Teach us, by the example Jesus, to give more fully of ourselves. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 to Communion

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,  
**come, see what God makes known for us.**  
 Come with joy to the feast.

*(Please be seated)*

## Communion Hymn

**#279 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## Post-Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which you have now just received,  
 strengthen you and keep you in his love and grace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

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.

**Amen.**

*And Dwelt Among Us.*

*Sending*

## Blessing

God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. May God grant you grace  
 and peace at the dawn of this new year. The Lord bless you and keep you. The  
 Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with  
 favor and give you peace. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless  
 you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace on God's people on earth!**

Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Angels from the Realms of Glory* arr. by Jan Mulder

*And of His Reign There Will Be No End!!*