

# Welcome to Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Pastor Don Short

## Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2020

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### GATHERING HYMN WITH LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

O come, all ye faith-ful, Joy-ful and tri-um-phant!

O come ye, o come ye to Beth-le-hem;

Come and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels;

O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore  
him,

O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!

The high-est, most ho-ly, light of light e-ter-nal,

Born of a vir-gin, a mor-tal he comes;

Son of the Fa-ther now in flesh ap-pear-ing!

O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore  
him,

O come let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,

Sing, all ye cit-i-zens of heav-en a-bove!

Glo-ry to God....in...the...high-est;

O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore  
him,

O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py  
morn-ing;

Je-sus, to thee be...glo-ry giv'n!

Word of the Fa-ther, now in flesh ap-pear-ing;

O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore  
him,

O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
Who was in the beginning,  
Who makes a dwelling among us,  
Who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.**  
**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.**  
**We have turned away from the lowly and the downtrodden.**  
**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,**  
**Those we know and those known only to you,**  
**For the sake of the one who came to live among us,**  
**Jesus Christ, our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through Jesus Christ, made know to all people.

With all who come to the manger,  
Rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**Amen**

## **KYRIE~~Your Dear little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We~~ELW #286**

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, are we  
And come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,  
That we the way to you may find.

Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,  
and to us all your grace accord;  
True faith and love to us impart,  
That we may hold you in our heart.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE: Hark the Herald Angels Sing~~ELW#270**

Hark! The he-rald an-gels sing,  
"Glo-ry to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled."  
Joy-ful, all you na-tions, rise;  
Join the tri-umph of the skies,  
With an-gel-ic hosts pro-claim,  
" Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"  
Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing,  
"Glo-ry to the new-born king!"  
  
Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored,  
Christ, the ev-er last-ing Lord,  
Late in time be-hold him come,  
Off-spring of a vir-gin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see!

Hail, in-car-nate de-i-ty!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el!  
Hark! The herald an-gels sing,  
"Glo-ry to the new-born king!"  
  
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with heal-ing in his wings  
Mild he lays his glo-ry by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
Born to give us sec-ond birth.  
Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing,  
"Glo-ry to the new-born king!"

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

## READINGS

### *A reading from Isaiah 9:2-7*

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

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### *Let us read Psalm 96*

<sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**  
<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>**Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**  
<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**  
<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.  
<sup>10</sup>**Say among the nations, “The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.”**  
<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
<sup>12</sup>**let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**  
<sup>13</sup>before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth

**A reading from Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel Acclamation~~Angels We Have Heard On High~~ELW #289**

An-gels we have heard on high,	Which in-spire your heav'n'ly song?
Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,	Glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o; Glo-ri-a,
And moun-tains in re-ply,	in ex-cel-sis De-o.
Ech-o-ing their joy-ous strains.	
Glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o; Glo-ri-a,	Come to Beth-le-hem and see
in ex-cel-sis De-o.	Him whose birth the an-gels sing;
	Come, a-dore on bend-ed knee
Shep-herds, why this ju-bi-lee?	Christ the Lord, the new-born king.
Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?	Glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o; Glo-ri-a,
What the glad-some tid-ings be	in ex-cel-sis De-o.

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1-20*

**Glory to you O Lord**

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

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **Hymn of the Day~~It Came Upon A Midnight Clear~~ELW #282**

It came up-on the mid-night clear,  
That glo-rious song of old,  
From an-gels bend-ing near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on earth, good will to all,  
From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king”  
The world in sol-umn still-ness lay  
To hear the an-gels sing.

Still through the clo-ven skies  
They come with peac-ful wings un-furled,  
And still their heav’n-ly mu-sic  
Floats o’er all the wea-ry world.  
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains  
They bend of hov-’ring wing,  
And ev-er o’er its ba-bel sounds  
The bless-ed an-gels sing.

And you, be-neath life’s crush-ing load,  
Whose forms are bend-ing low,  
Who toil a-long the climb-ing way  
With pain-ful steps and slow:  
Look now, for glad and gold-en hours  
Come swift-ly on the wing;  
Oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road  
And hear the an-gels sing!

For lo! The days are has-t’ning on,  
By proph-ets seen of old,  
When they ev-er-cir-cling years  
Shall come the time fore-told,  
When peace shall o-ver  
All the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,  
And all the world give back  
The song which now the an-gels sing.

## **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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Hear us O God....Your mercy is great

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

## **GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

### **OFFERTORY HYMN~~What Child is This?~~ELW#296**

What child is this, who laid to rest,  
On Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet  
While shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mar-y!

Why lies he in such mean es-tate  
Where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here  
The si-lent Word is plead-ing.

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 Mar-y!

So bring him in-cense of gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peas-ant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings sal-va-tion brings;  
Let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mar-y!

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Holy God,**

**Your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING~~ELW pg 144**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

. . . We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **SANCTUS~~Infant Holy, Infant Lowly~~ELW #276**

In-fant ho-ly, in-fant low-ly,  
For his bed a cat-tle stall;  
Ox-en low-ing, lit-tle know-ing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swift-ly wing-ing, an-gels sing-ing,  
Bells are ring-ing, tid-ings bring-ing;  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleep-ing,  
shep-herds keep-ing vig-il  
Till the morn-ing new saw the glo-ry,  
Heard the sto-ry, tid-ings of gos-pel true.  
Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row,  
Prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:  
Christ the child is born for you!  
Christ the child is born for you!

## **WORDS OF INSITUATION**

### **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

## **COMMUNION**

In the bread and wine of Holy Communion,  
our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present,  
granting the gift of forgiveness to all  
who know him as the unique Son of God.  
God's table is open to all baptized Christians,  
including all baptized children.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN~~The First Noel~~ELW #300

The first No-el the an-gel did say  
Was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as  
the lay;  
In the fields where they lay, keep-ing their  
sheep,  
on a cold win-ter's night, that was so deep.  
    No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el!  
    Born is the King of Is-ra-el.

They look-ed up and saw...a star  
shin-ing in...the east...be-yond...them far;  
And to the earth it gave...great light,  
And ..so it con-tin-ued both day and night.  
    No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el!  
    Born is the King of Is-ra-el.

And by the light of that..same star  
three...Wise..men came..from coun-try far;  
To seek for a King was their...in-tent,

And to fol-low the star where-ev-er it went.  
    No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el!  
    Born is the King of Is-ra-el.

This star drew near to the...north-west,  
o'er...Beth-le-hem..it took..its rest;  
and there it did both stop...and stay  
right.. o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.  
    No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el!  
    Born is the King of Is-ra-el.

Then en-tered in those wise...men three,  
Full...rev-'rent-ly...up-on...their knee,  
And of-fered there in his...pres-ence  
Their...gold,...and myrrh, and  
frank-in-cense.  
    No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el!  
    Born is the King of Is-ra-el

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**We give you thanks, Gracious God,  
That you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ.  
Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through  
the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION HYMN~~I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve~~ELW#271

The night of Je-sus' birth!  
Then like the sun the star shone forth,  
And an-gels sang on earth.

The lit-tle child in Beth-le-hem,  
He was a king in-deed!  
For he came down from heav'n above  
To help a world in need.

He dwells a-gain in heav-en's realm,  
The Son of God to-day;  
And still he loves his lit-tle ones

And hears them when they pray.

I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve!  
His prais-es then I sing;  
He o-pens now for ev-'ry child

The pal-ace of the king.  
And so I love each Christ-mas Eve,  
And I love Je-sus too;  
And that he loves me ev-'ry day  
I know so well is true.

## **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord Bless you and keep you  
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you  
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

## **SENDING HYMN~~Silent Night~~ELW #281 (candle lighting)**

Si-lent night, ho-ly night! All is calm, all is  
bright  
Round yon vir-gin Moth-er and child.  
Ho-ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in  
heav-en-ly peace.

Si-lent night, ho-ly night! shep-herds quake  
at the sight;  
Glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far,  
Heav'n-ly hosts...sing, al-le-lu-ia!

Christ the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the  
Sav-ior is born!

Si-lent night, ho-ly night! Son of God,  
Love's pure light  
Ra-diant beams From your ho-ly face,  
With the dawn of re-deem-ing grace,  
Je-sus, Lord, at your birth, Je-sus Lord, at  
your birth.

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God**