

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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Pastor David M. Deal 610- 346-8314

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve -- December 24, 2017 -- 7:30 PM



WELCOME to all who are here to worship with us on this holy night! If you are visiting, please sign the guest book in the Narthex.

PLEASE NOTE: We will be using the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal for carols and hymns. The asterisk (*) indicates to please stand if you are able.

Preparatory Worship - Organist/Pianist

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, + one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,

C: in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

* The Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

* Gathering Song "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ELW #270

* Greeting

P: Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia!

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

C: And also with you.

* The Prayer of the Day (Lay Worship Assistant)

Please be seated after the prayer.

The First Reading (Lay Reader)

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm Anthem (Choir) "A Christmas Proclamation" Joseph Martin

The Second Reading (Lay Reader)

Titus 2:11-14

* Gospel Acclamation "O Come All Ye Faithful" (vs 1) ELW #283

* The Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Children's Sermon

Sermon "From Chaos to Peace"

* Hymn of the Day "From Heaven Above" (vss 1-3) ELW #268

* 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;

By the power of the Holy Spirit

He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

And was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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 of Intercession**

Response: P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Offering

Choir Anthem "Sing Alleluia, Christ is Born" Purifoy

*** Offertory Hymn** "What Child is This?" **ELW #296**

*** Offering Prayer** (Lay Worship Assistant)

L: God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw
and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and
wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary
things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless
the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

C: Amen.

*** Introduction to Holy Communion - The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*** Preface for Christmas**

P: ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn,
shouting:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

*** Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas** (*Said by Pastor*)

*** The Lord's Prayer** (*spoken in unison*)

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; 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.

*** Lamb of God** (*spoken in unison*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

Grant us peace.

*** Invitation to Communion**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive
your savior.

Hymns During Distribution of Bread and Wine:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ELW #279

"Away in a Manger"

ELW #277

"I Am So Glad"

ELW #271

*** Communion Blessing** (*Said by pastor after all have communed*)

* **Hymn of Thanksgiving** “Joy to the World” **ELW #267**

* **Prayer after Communion** (Lay Worship Assistant)

L: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

* **Blessing** (Pastor)

P: May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* **Dismissal**

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: Peace to God’s people on earth!

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

* **Candlelight Closing:** *For the lighting of the candles, please wait for the acolyte to extend the candle to the first person seated on the aisle. Extend your unlighted candle to the person with the lighted candle nearest you.*

* **The Closing Hymn** “Silent Night” **ELW #281**

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. 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!

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant streams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

The Congregation extinguishes the candles and leaves the worship space.

Serving in our worship this evening:

- Acolytes and Communion Assistants Sharron Streletz,
Grace Litzenberger
- Council Communion Assistants Council Members
- Lay Worship Assistants Mark Harwick, Linda Sauter
- Greeters . . . Jim and Lois Altemose and Grace Litzenberger
- Altar Guild and Communion Bread . . . Mark Harwick, Nancy
Moskella, Barb Naska
- Head Usher Cheryl Mesko
- Counters Council Members
- Organist/Choir Director Carolyn Williams
- Parish Secretary Ann Wong
- Custodian Dianna Streletz

Christmas Eve Bulletins are sponsored by Ann Wong in loving memory of Nancy Jean Xander, Sue Kehler, and Nancy Fox.

The Christmas Eve Food Basket is given by Lois and Jim Altemose in memory of loved ones.

THANK YOU to the Choir Director; Choir; Altar Guild; Worship Assistants; Volunteers who prepared the Sanctuary and provided the greens and Christmas flowers; and all who came to worship tonight!

Our Christmas celebration continues!

SUNDAY, December 31 - 10:30 AM Celebrating Christmas Season & New Year’s Eve - NO Sunday School



*... and they will call him Emmanuel - which means,
"God with us."*

