

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500



December 24, 2021 – CHRISTMAS EVE/ HOLY COMMUNION

7:00 PM - Service

also on - www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran

Piano Prelude - “Various Christmas Carol Arrangements” - arr. David Lanz

Call to Worship

Choir Anthem- “He Is Born, Sing Noel” - Lloyd Larsen

Welcome - Announcements - Welcome our Guest Preacher,

Rev. Marcia Bell

Introduction to Worship

Confession and Forgiveness (Stand if you are able)

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who send the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Holy God,

we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Opening Hymn - ELW #270 - "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

(Stand if you are able)

Greeting

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

PEOPLE: **AND ALSO WITH YOU**

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.* (Please be Seated)

First Reading- Isaiah 9: 2-7

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.
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.
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.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: **The Word of the Lord.**

PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Psalm 96 (read responsively)

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations and
God's wonders among all peoples.

**⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**¹⁰Tell it out among the nations; "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot
be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading- Titus 2: 11-14

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

Lector: **The Word of the Lord**

PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)

ELW # 267 - "Joy to the World"

Pastor: **The holy gospel according to Luke:**

PEOPLE: **GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

The Holy Gospel - Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a

Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

(Be seated after the gospel)

Children's Message: ELW 278 - "Away in a Manger"

Message/ Sermon - Rev. Marcia Bell

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 274 - "On Christmas Night"

NICENE' CREED (Please stand , if able)

**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 and Intercessions:

Pastor: Hear us, O God.

People: YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.

Sharing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer (said by Pastor)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: WE LIFT THEM TO THE

LORD.

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

People: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

Jesus' Words of Institution (said by Pastor)

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

(At this time, remove the seal at the bottom of the small chalice, remove the small piece of bread. Hold it in your hand)

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. Take and eat. (Eat the bread)

(At this time, remove the seal above the small chalice. Hold the chalice in your hand.)

P: This is the blood of Christ, shed for you. Take and drink.

(Drink the wine or grape juice. Set down the small chalice for prayer.)

P: (Communion Blessing) The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. AMEN.

Communion Hymn: ELW 294 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Prayer after Communion (said by Pastor)

Blessing (Pastor)

Dismissal:

Pastor: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

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

Closing Hymn- ELW #281 - "Silent Night" (with candle lighting)

(Stand if you are able)

Organ Postlude - "Silent Night" - Arr. William Stickles

Helping in Worship

Preacher	- Marcia Bell
Organist/Choir Director	- Carolyn Williams
Acolyte	- Grace Litzenberger
Altar Guild	- Mark Harwick and Val McGinn
Lector	- Beth Snyder
Usher	- Lois & Jim Altemos
Council Counting Team	- Scott Gaun and Mark Harwick
Technology	- Ken Anderson
Office Secretary	- Jessica Mette
Custodian	- Dianna Streletz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- TODAY, FRIDAY, December 24th- CHRISTMAS EVE/ HOLY COMMUNION Service: 7 p.m., Rev. Marcia Bell - guest pastor
- This Sunday, December 26 - First Sunday of Christmas
- with Rev. James Heckman
- The Adult Sunday School class is meeting in the church library at 9:15 every Sunday.
 - The Adult Bible study meets from 2:30-4:30 at the home of Don Seipt and Kathy Hlavaty on Thursdays. Carpooling from the church is available.
- DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS - DECEMBER 29th-Leo Grzelkowski; DECEMBER 30TH- George Kreitz
- DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES- DECEMBER 26th- Cheryl & Wayne Mesko (45); DECEMBER 28th- Jayne & Jim Miller (53); DECEMBER 30th- Laura & Dave Helfrich (15)
- DECEMBER BAPTISMS - DECEMBER 29th- Matthew Mueller
- DECEMBER "OUTREACH OFFERINGS" go to AHUB - support code blue effort for our community

Please lift up in prayer the following ...

For Healing of those in our Congregation: Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Norma Fox; Virginia Hager; Betty and George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Dot Peterman; Carolyn Williams and Joanne & Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family: Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Deb Carmichael; Alice Cicatiello; Bill Corrigan; Lisa & Dave DeLorenzo; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Gabriella Froehlich; Ken Garey; Candie Gimbar; Clarence Hoover Jr.; George & Lois James; Virginia Johnson; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Lauren Keebler; Kyle Kels; Martine King; Priscilla Kinter; Chelsea Marley; Clint O'Connor; Sue Odor; Lisa Pezzino; Donnie Pyne; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Ron Steele; Jesse Stimell; Steven Streletz; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Rocco Vonelli; and Linda Wilson.

For those who are Homebound: Cleo and Ken Eck; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; Silas Rodenbach; and Hal Taylor

For the Grieving: The families of Brian Ashmore, Jr; Dean Litzenberger; and Bobby Starling

For those in Health Care: Sara Aquino; Debbie Angstadt; Kendell Beerer; Mary Crouse; Sara Deal Den Herder; Mary Erceg; Faye Gadwell; Morgan Litz; Tanya Naska; Kristi Lee Reiman; and Sharon Streletz.

Essential postal workers: Andrea Fox and Dawn Margeson.