

+THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD+
(Christmass Eve)
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

December 24, 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
6:00 PM

Evangelical Lutheran Church
8:00 PM

Atonement Lutheran Church
10:00 PM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Ringing of the Church Bell

Meditation & Prayer

Welcome and Parish News

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father+ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Rejoicing in the good news that God and sinners are reconciled in Christ, let us confess our need for forgiveness before God and to One another.

Silence for reflection and self examination

P God of everlasting love,

C We confess that we have lived in captivity to the fear of death; by our actions and by our neglect, we have resisted your good and gracious will. Free us from anxiety and distraction; cast out our sin, give us a new birth of hope as we welcome the child born to save, Christ the Lord. Amen.

P “You are my children; I am your Savior,” says our God, who has redeemed us, who lifts us up and carries us all our days. In mercy and loving kindness God forgives us all our sins for the sake of Jesus+, who delights to call us sisters and brothers.

C Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

P Today, the eve of the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth, and then formed man and woman in His own image; several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the Covenant; eighteen hundred years from God's call to Abraham and Sarah to go to a new and promised land; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; and the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome; in the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus Caesar; the whole Roman world being at peace: Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by His most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since His conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea, of the Virgin Mary. This is the celebration of the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the flesh.

ENTRANCE CAROL: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW #45

FIRST PRAYER

C O God, you once made this Holy Night to shine with the brightness of the True Light. Having come to know the mystery of that Light on earth, we pray for the fullness of His heavenly joys; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

MUSICAL OFFERING

CAROL: “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

(lighting of the Christ Candle
on the Advent Wreath)

**“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to you,
Oh Israel.”**

WORD_____

THE CHRISTMASS STORY with the Candle Creche (lights dimmed)

CAROL: “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve” (St 1-4 & 6)

LBW #69

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Paul

HOMILY

Pastor Paul

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Joy to the World”

LBW #39

RESPONSE_____

Stand in body or in spirit

PRAYERS

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Sit

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY CAROL: “What Child Is This” LBW #40

Presentation of gifts

Stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Gracious Father, in the birth of Jesus Christ your Son, you began restoring us to life. Receive our Christmass offerings as a promise to begin to trace this whole story of his love through another year. Use that worship to help us trust and follow him in his noble servant work; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL_____

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P Oh, may the good Lord be with you. (tune: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”)

C **And may the Lord be with you too.**

P Lift your hearts to Him in praise.

C **To the Lord our hearts we raise.**

P Let us offer praises true.

C **It is fitting so to do:**

Gratefully we sing

To the Lord, our King!

P Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of Your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and You sent Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of hosts, by all adored:
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of Your name!
With the heav'nly host we sing
Highest praises to our King:

Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame
Be to Him who, in God's name,
Now draws nigh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hail! Hosanna! Praises be
To the Lord eternally!**

(tune: "As With Gladness Men of Old")

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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, 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,
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.

LORD'S PRAYER

(tune: "Away in a Manger")

**C Our Father in heaven,
all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us,
Your will done the same
By mortals and angels,
Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us
from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for
provide us each day;
As we forgive others,
our sins take away;
In times of temptation,
to lead us, be near;
From evil deliver
Your children most dear,
For Yours is the kingdom;
o'er all things Your reign.
And Yours is the power;
all things You maintain.
To You be the glory,
resounding again
From all of creation,
forever! Amen.**

Sit

DISTRIBUTION/HYMNS (*sung quietly*)

"Away in a Manger"

LBW #67

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

LBW #54

"From Heaven Above" (Luther's Christmass Hymn)

LBW #51

Stand

THE THANKSGIVING

(tune: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”)

**C Thank the Lord, His praises voicing
For His promised faithfulness!
All who seek the Lord, rejoicing
Tell His love, His name confess,
For He leads us, with thanksgiving
In the paths of righteousness.**

**At Your Word, Lord, let Your servant
Go in peace, for with my eyes
I have seen Your bright salvation,
Israel’s Light, begin to rise
As the Glory of the nations,
Leading us to Paradise.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Lord, as once you came at your blessed birth, so in this Sacrament you have come down to save. Come still once more; complete your gracious visitation; lift us up to be with you. You are the Lord forevermore. **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING

Stand

P “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world, all who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” You are Jesus’ light for the world. “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

The Light is passed as “Silent Night” is sung.

CAROL: “Silent Night”

LBW #65

**“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.**

**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!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light.
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.”**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

(tune: "O Little Town of Bethlehem")

P Now may the good Lord bless and keep,
His love in you increase,
Life up His face with shining grace,
And grant eternal peace.

C **To Father, Son, and Spirit,
Eternal One-in-Three,
Be thanks and praise through all our days
And to eternity!**

RECESSIONAL CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LBW #60

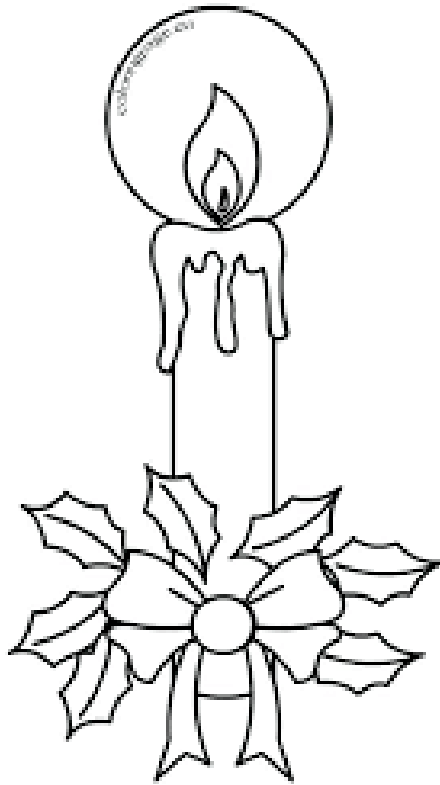
DISMISSAL

A Go in peace; serve the Newborn and Eternal King!

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE





You received a candle...

as you entered church tonight. At the time of the candle lighting, the pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle, symbolizing the presence of our Lord. The pastor and assistant will come down the aisles and pass the light to the first worshiper in each pew, who will then pass it on to the others. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another. When all candles have been lit, the pastor will give the Benediction. Candles may be extinguished during the Recessional Carol and should be returned to the fellowship hall.

We are Member Congregations of the:

+OTSEGO COUNTY LUTHERAN PARISH+

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Follow us on Facebook: Otsego County Lutheran Parish

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+Upstate NY Synod: The Rev. John S. Macholz, Bishop

+Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop

+The One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

Worshipping the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit