



Incarnation Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion

December 24, 2017; 5pm – Nativity of Our Lord-Christmas Eve

GATHERING MUSIC

Seasonal Selections

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

ENTRANCE CAROL 283

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and
triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the king of angel

2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
Refrain

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

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.**

CAROL OF PRAISE 289

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Refrain: Gloria in Excelsis Deo; Gloria in Excelsis Deo

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME ALL AGES children invited to come to the altar steps for conversation and bucket offering.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

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

SONG OF PRAISE: 272

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

THE SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

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

THE GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their

flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

The assembly is seated

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

PASTOR JANE

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands.

CAROL OF THE DAY 282

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels 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 INTERCESSION

*Each petition concludes "Lord, in your mercy," We respond: **hear our prayer.***

PEACE *The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

The assembly stands at the invitation of the presider as the offering and communion elements are brought forward.

ANTHEM

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

OFFERTORY RESPONSE 296

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

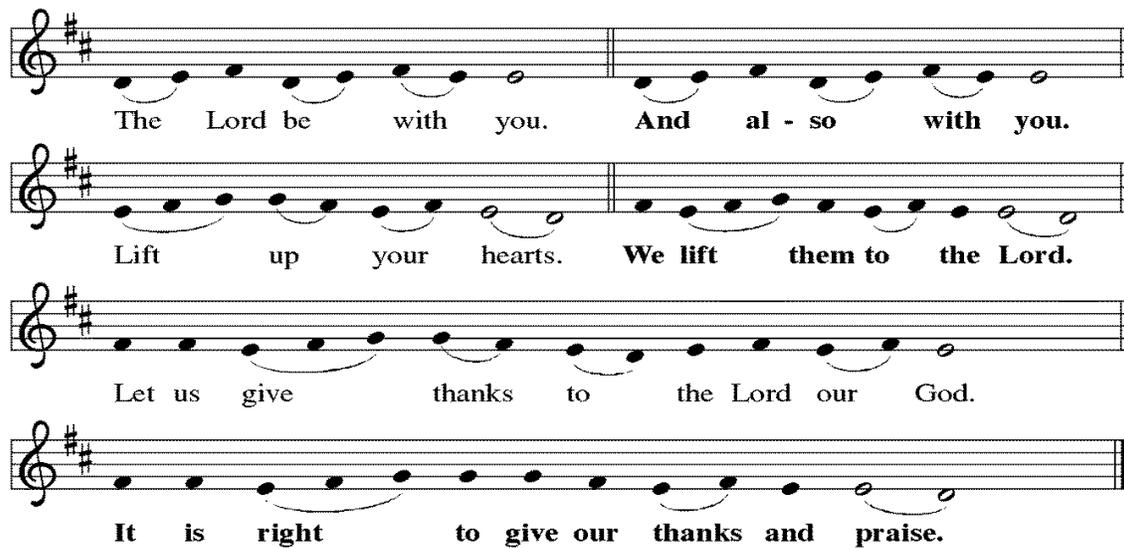
What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING PRAYER

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE AND CAROL RESPONSE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Glo... .. r-ia in Excelsis Deo; Glo... .. r-ia in Excelsis Deo.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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 is 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 is 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Thanks be to God.

CAROL 296

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
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 Mary!

COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in communion, trusting that Christ promises to be truly present. Whole wheat communion bread is served. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Red communion wine is served: the first cup is a common cup (for drinking from) and the second cup is for intinction (dipping the bread). Those unable to partake of both elements are assured that the Church affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. Those who choose not to receive Communion are welcome to come forward to the altar railing for a blessing.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION CAROL 277

Away in A Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where
he lay the little Lord Jesus asleep on the
hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

COMMUNION CAROL 279

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

COMMUNION CAROL 276

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W. ZOBIE LEZY

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE 270 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

NATIVITY CANDLE LIGHTING

The Nativity Candle is lighted in the center of the Advent wreath, and the flame of Christ's light is then passed to the candlebearers. During the singing of Silent Night, the light is passed to each pew. Please exercise caution as you pass the light, especially with young children. We join in singing:

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 beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

SENDING

God send us out to be Christ's body in the world, sharing what we have heard and seen.

BLESSING

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.
Amen.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL 267

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! **Peace to God's people on earth!**
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
(5pm Service)

Ushers:	Team 2
Lay Assistant:	Cole Snyder
Crucifer:	Ethan Johnson
Acolytes:	Olivia Jackson, Gabi Nester
Torch Bearers:	Henry Murdoch, Noah Meyer
Bible Bearer:	Grace Sawicki
Lectors:	Janet Hoffmann

Communion Assistants: Welda McCullough, Janet Hoffmann

Eucharist Minister: *Need a volunteer for 4th week of the month – see Mary Kehl*

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth Justice	12/26	Michael Turner	12/26
Baylor Literati	12/29		

BIRTHDAYS

Leah Livingston	12/24	Anne Sas	12/25
Richard Goeres	12/26	Jacob Kehl	12/28
Emmett Sowell	12/29	Kristina Militello	12/31
Jill Whitaker	12/31	Melanie Mooney	12/31

*Please remember to make end-of-year charitable deductions before 12/31!
Use our ONLINE GIVING button for your convenience!*

Financial Report:	Actual	Plan	Difference
Last Week	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,790	\$ -190-
Month-to-Date	\$ 10,856	\$ 11,370	\$ -324-
Year-to-Date	\$ 207,124	\$ 219,844	\$ -12,720-

Visit www.incarnationlutheran.com for bulletins, online giving, and more

Wifi Access: ILC_Members_5G PW: @ilc1921



Current Concerns

Jones Anderson, Troop 8 Scout
Jeremy and Nicole Wade and their extended family
Naama Wrightman, friend of Elizabeth Thebo
Eugenie Regnery, Eugenie Parker's mother
Sarah Parker, Mike Parker's mother
Mary Steadman, friend of Mary Crosby
Bobby Wierich Harry Evans Alden Pratt
CA wildfire victims
San Pablo Lutheran Church, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico

Our chancel is adorned with beautiful Christmas poinsettias today in honor of those we love and those we remember always. A special thank you to Beth Rogers, Toni Parker, Fran Sims, and Carol Black for their dedication in organizing this display.

If you purchased a plant, you may take it home following the conclusion of the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attitude of Gratitude—please place your Advent calendar offerings in the specially marked envelopes for collection TODAY. Proceeds will go to the San Pablo Lutheran Church congregation to aid in their repair efforts following Hurricane Maria.

Ten Commandments Class-- Advertising is a multibillion-dollar industry whose goal is to make every one of us believe we can never be happy with what we have. Come to Sunday school on the 10 commandments starting January 7th to remember that happiness comes not from what we have but who we are.

HOLD THE DATE! As you know, we are moving to a discipleship ministry model where the gifts of all are used for the sake of the gospel in the world. On *Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 9am-lunch* at the council retreat, we will be focusing on the structure and function of ministry teams. If you are interested in serving on any of these teams- please plan to attend this morning session. Please notify the office if you plan to attend so we can adequately plan for lunch. All are welcome!

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE! *Please do not delay* in getting these reports in to the office (Word .docx, .doc file or .pdf for financial reports). Reports are required from all staff, council officers, partner ministries, ministry team chairpersons, and other essential committees. Talk to Pastor Jane or the office if you have questions. Check Tuesday's eblast for a link to last year's report as a guide.

*Wishing you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year—
The Incarnation Lutheran Church Staff*

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