

# The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 5:30 pm



**Upper Tincum Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Bishop Bryan Penman.  
Southeast Pennsylvania Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Corey Olver, Music Director

P: Pastor **C: Congregation** L: Lector/ **A: Assistant**

## **GATHERING**

*Please stand if you are able.*

**Gathering Hymn - LBW# 45 "O, Come, All Ye Faithful"**

### **Greeting**

P: The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at Baptism.*

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **C: Amen.**

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

*Silence for reflection.*

P: God-with-us, **C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice!  
You are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,  
✠ forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy.  
**C: Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise - LBW #71 "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

**WORD**

**The First Reading**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

*L: This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this! The text begins:*

<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.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## The Second Reading

**Titus 2:11-14**

*L: The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance. The text begins:*

<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.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand if you are able.*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Luke 2:1-20**

*P: God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace. The text begins:*

<sup>1</sup>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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Silence for reflection.*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle - *Please stand if you are able.***

**Hymn: LBW #34 “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel”(vs 4&5)**

**The Christmas Sermon**

**The Christmas Hymn - LBW #60 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**

**THE APOSTLE’S CREED**

P: With one voice let us recite the Apostle’s Creed together.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession**

A: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence*

A: Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,

God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict (*places experiencing war or violence may be named*). God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy (*especially*). God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows (*local joys and concerns may be named*). God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Please greet each other with a **non-contact** sign of the Christ's Peace.

## The Offering: Our Gifts and Offerings

*Anthem: All is Well – UTLC Choir*

**OFFERTORY- LBW #64** “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

### Offering Prayer

A: God of heaven and earth,  
from the beginning, you have called forth life,  
in which you take delight.  
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.  
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,  
that we may join the chorus of creation  
to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**C: Amen**

*Please stand if you are able.*

### DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

P: 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.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Glory to you, O God. Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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 is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: 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.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the Lord's Prayer the way Jesus taught us:

**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: Upper Tinicum Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.  
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

**Communion Hymn - LBW# 67 "Away in a Manger"**

**Prayer after Communion**

A: Merciful God,  
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness,  
send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted,  
and share the good news of great joy.

**C: Amen.**

**Candlelight Hymn LBW 65**

*"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

**Blessing**

P: The God of love,  
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path,  
and increase your joy,  
today and always.

**C: Amen.**

**\*PLEASE EXTINGUISH ALL CANDLES NOW\***

**Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Sending Hymn - LBW# 39 "Joy to the World"**

**Postlude**

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