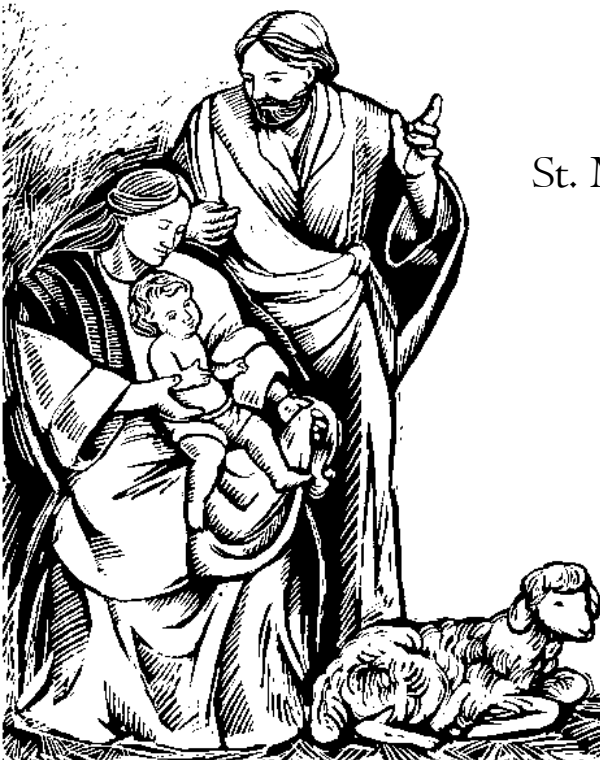


# CHRISTMAS DAY

## WORSHIP

St. Martin's Lutheran Church  
203 S. Defiance Street  
Archbold, Ohio

December 25, 2023  
10:00am



+ *Christmas Day* +

*On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.*

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*LBW indicates hymns found in the Green hymnal*

*WOV indicates hymns found in the Blue hymnal*

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader

**Bold text is spoken by the congregation**

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*OPENING HYMN

*"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"*

LBW 66

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

May the grace and truth of the Word made flesh, Christ the Lord, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

**Amen**

*"Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly"*

(Tune: Nettleton)

1) *Sing of Mary, pure and lowly,  
virgin mother, wise and mild.  
Sing of God's own Son most holy,  
who became her little child.  
Fairest child of fairest mother,  
God the Lord who came to earth,  
Word made flesh, our very brother,  
takes our nature by his birth.*

2) *Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,  
in the home at Nazareth.  
Toil and labor cannot weary  
love enduring unto death.  
Constant was the love he gave her,  
though he went forth from her side,  
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,  
till on Calvary he died.*

3) *Glory be to God the Father;  
glory be to God the Son;  
glory be to God the Spirit;  
glory to the Three in One.  
From the heart of blessed Mary,  
from all saints the song ascends,  
and the church the strain reechoes  
unto earth's remotest ends.*

*Luke 1:26-35*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

**but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son** Hebrews 1:1-2

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words, and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with

God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God. " Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

The Lord himself will give you a sign.

**Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.**

And they shall name him Emmanuel,

**Which means, God is with us.** Isaiah 7:14

## **PRAYER**

Almighty God, in choosing Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious care for the poor and lowly. Grant us grace to receive your Word in humbleness, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

# JOSEPH

## HYMN

## "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"



1 Jo - seph dear - est, Jo - seph mine, help me cra - dle this Child di - vine.  
2 Glad - ly dear one, Ma - ry mine, help I cra - dle this Child of thine.  
3 Glo - ry, hon - or, laud and praise be to God for end - less days



God re - ward both thee and thine in Beth-le-hem, so prays his mo - ther Ma - ry.  
God's own light on us shall shine in par - a - dise, so prays the mo - ther Ma - ry  
for God's love on us dis - plays, in Beth-le-hem, up - on a Christ - mas morn - ing.

### *Matthew 1:18-21*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
**but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son** Hebrews 1:1-2

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.

**And a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

**The spirit of wisdom and understanding.**

The spirit of counsel and might.

**The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.** Isaiah 11:1-2

## PRAYER

O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your Son and the spouse of his mother, Mary: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## JESUS

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## HYMN

*"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

**LBW 44**

### *Luke 2:1-7*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
**but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son** Hebrews 1:1-2

In those days a decree went out from the 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.

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.** Isaiah 9:6

## PRAYER

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

*Please Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

**LBW 70**

## \*GOSPEL READING

John 1:1–14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

### **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of The Lord

### **Praise to You, O Christ**

## MESSAGE

“THE WAY GOD SPEAKS”

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Holy Child within the Manger"*

**WOV 638**  
*(Blue hymnal)*



## PROFESSION OF FAITH – *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**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

**Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.**

You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

**Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.**

You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

**Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.**

You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

**May we see your glory, full of grace and truth.**

*Petitions are offered...and we respond...*

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE


The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(We share God's peace with each other with the words "Peace be with you")*

## OFFERING OF GIFTS

### \*OFFERTORY



O come, lit - tle chil - dren, O come, one and all,  
Dear Christ Child, what gifts can we child - ren be - stow  
Our hearts, then, to Thee we will of - fer to - day,  
to Beth - le - hem haste, to the man - ger so small,  
by which our af - fec - tion and glad - ness to show?  
we of - fer them glad - ly, ac - cept them, we pray,  
God's Son for a gift has been sent us this night  
No rich - es and trea - sures of va - lue can be,  
and make them so spot - less and pure that we may  
to be our Re - deem - er, our Joy and De - light.  
but hearts that be - lieve are ac - cep - ted with Thee.  
a - bide in your pre - sence in hea - ven al - ways.

## THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God, Creator of all and source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your sons and daughters.

*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 in 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 in remembrance of me.*

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **THE 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.**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Communion will be distributed in a continuous fashion. Please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. The center light colored ring in each tray is grape juice.*

**HYMN**

**“The Bells of Christmas”**

**LBW 62**

## BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## PRAYER

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, now send us as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

**Praise God, all creatures here below!**

We are the shepherds telling the story.

**telling it in the streets and across the land.**

We are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

**with gifts of song and acts of service, talents and treasures.**

We are the angels announcing peace.

**living with joy and going in peace.**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

**LBW 60**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the Good News.

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

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Presiding: Deacon Steve Basselman

Organist: Matthew Wachtman

Acolyte: Addison Thompson

***We welcome you here this morning on this Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May you be blessed by His presence this day during your celebrations and throughout the coming New Year. If you are visiting with us for the first time, do come back to worship with us again.***

***Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.***

***Sunday School – 10:20 a.m.***

***Wednesday Informal Worship – 6:00 p.m.***