

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio
614.875.2314 www.stjohnsgc.org

CHRISTMAS DAY 2021

10:00 am

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

PRELUDE *In Dulce Jubilo*

arr. Marcel Dupre

The prelude is by French organist Marcel Dupre (1886-1971). He was known as a brilliant organist, improviser, and composer. His arrangement of this familiar carol reflects its title: "In Quiet Joy."

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Amid the shadows of this world, let us confess our sins and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

(period of silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: God of grace and truth:

C: In Christ Jesus You come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, nor trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of Your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: The angel said, "You shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins." With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN 270 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

GREETING

P: The grace and loving kindness of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of the Virgin Mary, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: : Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, “See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.” The Word of The Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

R: The Word of The Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 97: 1,6,11,12

P: The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice!

C: The heavens proclaim His righteousness; and all the people behold His glory!

P: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

C: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!

P: The Holy Gospel according to the second chapter of Luke.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2: 1-20

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.

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 98:1-4

P: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.

C: His right hand and His holy arm have gotten Him victory.

P: The Lord has made know His victory.

C: He has revealed His vindication in the sight of the nations.

P: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into song and sing praise!

ANTHEM: What Child Is This?

arr. by Jerry Ray
Ann Jones, Soprano

SERMON

Pastor Seth Jersild

HYMN 275 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

APOSTLES' CREED

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 THE CHURCH

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

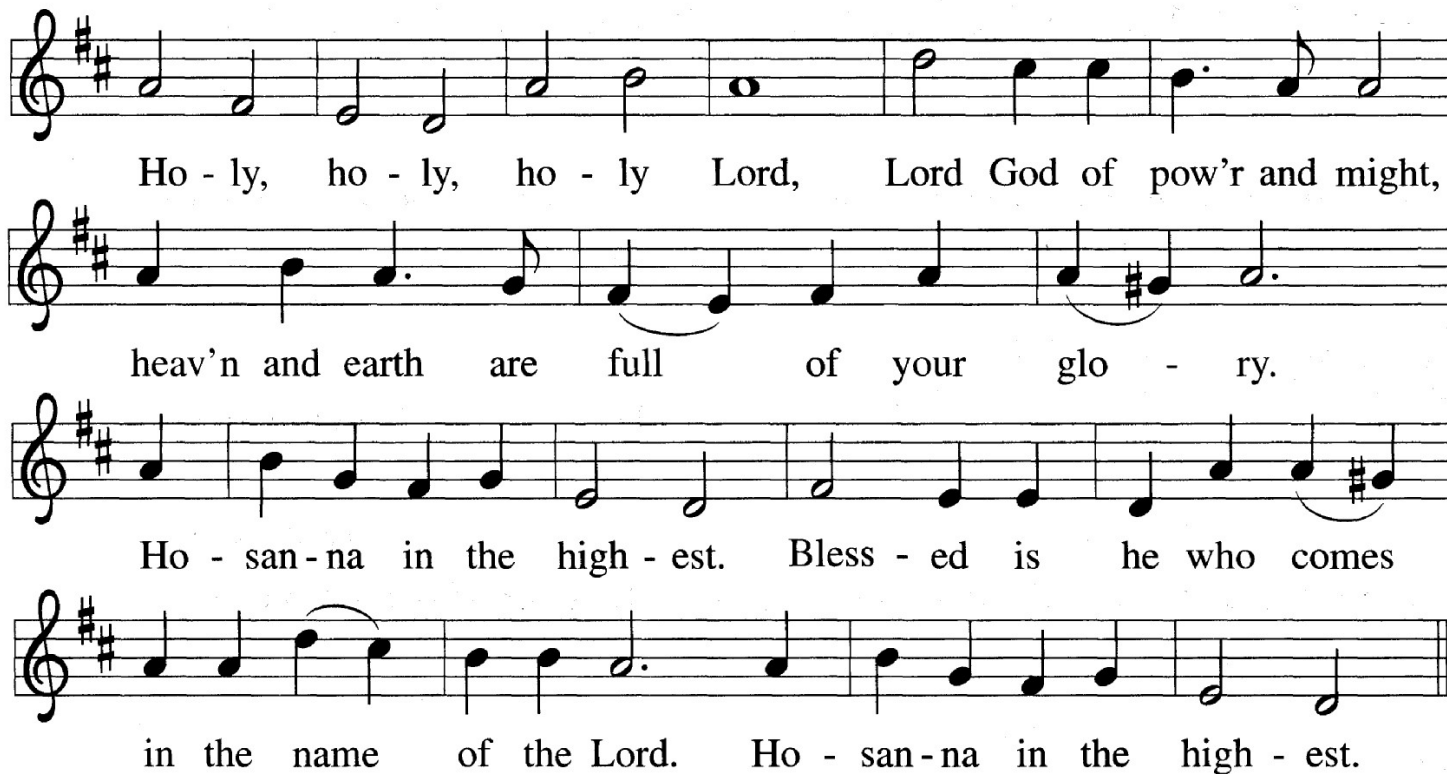
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

- ◆ *Persons who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and believe in his real presence in the sacrament are invited to commune. Grape juice is available in the center of the tray.*
- ◆ *Children not yet communing may come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.*

- ◆ *Adults who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you desire a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*
- ◆ *If you are not able to come forward to receive communion, please let the pastor know by raising your hand as he/she scans the congregation. The pastor will come to you.*

BLESSING, PRAYERS, AND BENEDICTION

HYMN 288 “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

POSTLUDE Postlude for Christmas

by Lani Smith

*If you have ordered poinsettias to take home,
please do so after the service today.
Poinsettias left at the altar will be donated to shut-ins.
Thank you and Merry Christmas!*

The Rev. Seth Jersild, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Patti Morlock, Associate Pastor
Mark Meuser, Organist

Serving Today

Communion Assistants

Karen Grossman, Christina Allman

Altar Guild

Sarah Schmitz, Dellno and Betty Lewis

Reader

Betty Lewis

Acolyte

Corban Allman