

A soft, painterly background illustration of a nativity scene. It shows Mary and Joseph in a stable, with Mary holding the infant Jesus. A manger with straw is visible, and a small light source, possibly a candle, glows in the background. The overall tone is warm and gentle.

For unto you
is born this day
a Saviour
who is Christ
the Lord
And this
will be a sign
unto you

You will find a
babe wrapped
in swaddling clothes and
lying in a manger

John 1:10-11

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio

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CHRISTMAS DAY 2025

10:00 am

CHRISTMAS DAY OFFERINGS: On Christmas Day, we will not be sending offering baskets through the pews during worship. You may place your tithes/offerings in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary as you go forward for communion, or at the end of today's worship service. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

PRELUDE Noel

by Claude Louis Daquin

The prelude and postlude are by French composer and organist Claude Louis Daquin (1694-1772). A child prodigy, Daquin performed for King Louis XIV at the age of six.

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 275 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, with the first stanza being a four-part setting. The second stanza continues the melody for the Soprano and Alto parts. The third stanza is a refrain, and the fourth stanza is a final verse. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal parts.

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 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

R: The Word of The Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

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, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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 first chapter of John.

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.

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 known 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!

SERMON

Pastor Don Allman

HYMN 278 "Away in a Manger"

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Away in a Manger". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next three lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C).

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

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

To each petition, respond:

P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

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

The musical score is written on five staves of five-line systems. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature 'C'. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a slur over the final two notes of the first line. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,' are aligned under the notes. The second staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above them. The lyrics 'Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are' are aligned under the notes. The third staff features a quarter rest followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' are aligned under the notes. The fourth staff continues the melody with a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the' are aligned under the notes. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a final note and a double bar line. The lyrics 'Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' are aligned under the notes.

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

- ♦ *All baptized believers who trust that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are encouraged to partake in communion.*
- ♦ *Children and adults who do not receive the meal are invited forward for a blessing.*
- ♦ *If you cannot come forward but wish to receive the sacrament, please let an usher know and a server will bring the sacrament to you.*
- ♦ *If you require grape juice or wafers as a substitute for the wine and/or bread, please let the servers know.*

BLESSING, PRAYERS, AND BENEDICTION

HYMN 274 "On Christmas Night"



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

POSTLUDE Noel Suisse

Claude Louis Daquin

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Christmas Day – December 25, 2025

“¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- John 1:14 -

Before my husband and I had children, we enjoyed tent camping. Our favorite spots were in Minnesota's state parks along the shore of Lake Superior. We enjoyed pitching a tent on the campground. Often, the longest we'd stay at one campground was about three nights. We'd tear everything down, move on to our next campsite, and set everything up all over again.

It was a process. We laid out a tarp, which helped if it rained, we wouldn't end up with a puddle of water at our feet. Once we had the spot situated, we got all our gear out: sleeping bags and pillows; flashlights and camp chairs. Then we'd get our fancy cookware out: skewers for our hot dogs and marshmallows and our coffee pot that made coffee right on our campfire... best investment ever! Oh yes, we were set! Set-up took at least an hour. Tearing down took longer. And then we'd do it all over again. Now the point of having a tent for camping is that it's temporary. It isn't intended for long-term living.

Today we hear from the Christmas story according to the Gospel of John. *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.* The Word, Jesus Christ, came into the world to dwell among us, among other humans. To better understand this, it helps to look at the original language these verses were written in, which was Greek. The word translated “dwelt” is translated from the Greek word ἐσκήνωσεν (es-kē-NŌ-sēn), which means, “he dwelt;” “he pitched a tent;” and “he made a tabernacle.” The Word of God pitches his tent with us. Despite the fact he's got a much better arrangement available, Jesus sets up camp with the people of earth. When Jesus became a human being, God was setting up camp with humans. In the incarnation, God pitched His tent among the people. Jesus Christ—fully God—was dwelling in Heaven. Yet, He came down to earth, to live among us sinners. God sets up camp with us, pitches His tent among the people, and becomes a real flesh and blood human being.

Tents are temporary; they wear out; they only give partial shelter from the elements. The same things can be said about humanity. Human life is temporary. Human bodies wear out. The human condition gives only partial shelter from suffering. But Jesus came to be a real human being, experiencing mortality, pain, frailty, suffering, and humiliation. All experiences that God chose to embrace when He became human. Not at all like the divine experience of perfection, peace, and permanence.

The Rev. Donald Allman, Guest Pastor
Mark Meuser, Organist

Serving Today

Communion Assistants
Tim and Christina Allman

Altar Guild
David and Karen Grossman

Greeters
Christine Hank

Reader
Kate Shrum

Acolytes
Corban Allman
Truman Allman

*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!*