

The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th 2023 at 5pm



Upper Tincum Evangelical Lutheran Church

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<http://facebook.com/uppertinicuml>
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The Rev. Bradley Gow, Guest Pastor
Corey Olver, Music Director

P: Pastor C: Congregation L: Lector/ A: Assisting Minister

GATHERING

5 pm ~ Prelude ~ Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

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, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection.

P: God of life, **C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

P: Hear the Good News: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

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:

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.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

C: Thanks be to God!

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:

¹¹For the 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.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

ELW Page 205 *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 2nd 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:

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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

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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 Meditation

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: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence

A: Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creations from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain, especially those on our prayer list. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: your loving kindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or know to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You welcome those who have died in the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **C:**

Amen.

MEAL

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.*

Welcome + Info about Holy Communion and Candle Lighting

The Offering: Our Gifts and Offerings

Love Came Down – UTLC Choir

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of abundance, **C: receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. 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: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Communion Hymn - LBW# 67 “Away in a Manger”

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. God our redeemer, **C: you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth 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.**

Candlelight Hymn ELW 281

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Organ introduction

Vs. 1: Voices together in unison

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.

Vs. 2. Raise Candles, Voices together in unison

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.

Vs. 3. Lower Candles, Sing with Organ

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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1972-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

Blessing

P: God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PLEASE EXTINGUISH ALL CANDLES NOW

Dismissal

A: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God!

Sending Hymn - LBW# 39 *“Joy to the World”*

Postlude

† † †

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In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



Welcome to Christmas Eve worship as we hear “Good News of Great Joy”: “Unto you is born this day ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11, ESV).

