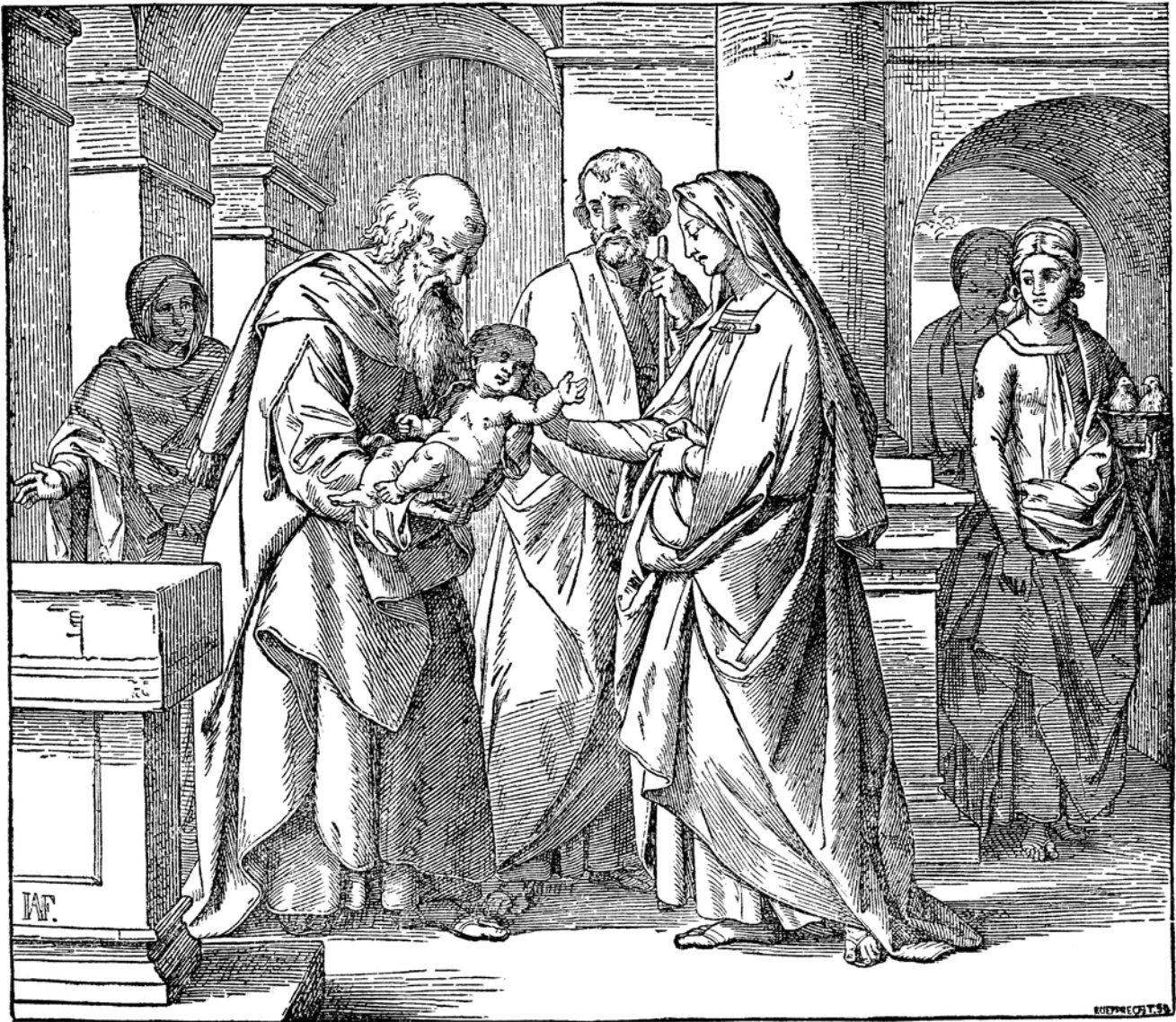


Our Saviour

Lutheran Church



Saturday Worship 30 December 2023
The First Saturday of Christmas Year B

6194 Dumfries Rd. Warrenton, VA 20187 + 540.347.3224. + www.oslc-warrenton.org

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

GATHERING

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C God of life, 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.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

Children's Message

Children come forward during "This Little Light of Mine".

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

L A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

L We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will read the sections in bold print.

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and
heaven.

¹⁴**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord.
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

L A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The congregation remains seated during the multi-voice presentation of the lesson.

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Narrator: ²² After Mary had observed the ceremonial days of *postpartum* purification required by Mosaic law, she and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. ²³ They were fulfilling the Lord's requirement that "every firstborn *Israelite* male will be dedicated to the Eternal One as holy." ²⁴ They also offered the sacrifice required by the law of the Lord, "two turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ *While fulfilling these sacred obligations at the temple,* they encountered a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was a just and pious man, anticipating the liberation of Israel from her troubles. He was a man in touch with the Holy Spirit. ²⁶ The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Anointed One. ²⁷ The Spirit had led him to the

temple that day, and there he saw the child Jesus in the arms of His parents, who were fulfilling their sacred obligations. ²⁸ Simeon took Jesus into his arms and blessed God.

²⁹ **Simeon:** Now, Lord *and King*, You can let me, Your humble servant, die in peace.

³⁰ You promised me that I would see with my own eyes what I'm seeing now: Your freedom,

³¹ Raised up in the presence of all peoples.

³² He is the light who reveals Your message to the other nations, and He is the shining glory of Your *covenant* people, Israel.

Narrator: ³³ His father and mother were stunned to hear Simeon say these things. ³⁴ Simeon went on to bless them both, and to Mary in particular he gave predictions.

Simeon: Listen, this child will make many in Israel rise and fall. He will be a significant person whom many will oppose. ³⁵ *In the end*, He will lay bare the secret thoughts of many hearts. And a sword will pierce even your own soul, Mary.

Narrator: ³⁶ At that very moment, an elderly woman named Anna stepped forward. Anna was a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for seven years *before her husband died* ³⁷ and a widow to her current age of 84 years. She was *deeply devoted to the Lord*, constantly in the temple, fasting and praying. ³⁸ When she approached *Mary, Joseph, and Jesus*, she began speaking out thanks to God, and she continued spreading the word about Jesus to all those who shared her hope for the rescue of Jerusalem.

³⁹ After fulfilling their sacred duties according to the law of the Lord, Mary and Joseph returned *with Jesus* to their own city of Nazareth in the province of Galilee. ⁴⁰ There

Jesus grew up, maturing in physical strength and increasing in wisdom, and the grace of God rested on Him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of the Day

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW276

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Prayers of the People

When prompted, everyone is encouraged to call out names of people, places or organizations for which they are thankful or that are in need of God's care.

The minister begins the prayers:

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Hear now the names we speak before you and each other.

The minister concludes the prayers:

P Into your hands, O God, we commend those for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

MEAL

Sharing Our Gifts

L Let us offer back to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

Our offerings support the work of the church here and around the world. Please pass the baskets from front to back. You may also make an offering online at www.oslc-warrenton.org by clicking the "DONATE" tab on the homepage. Thank you!

Offertory Song *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* Spiritoso Ringers

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray together.

C God of abundance,
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.

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P 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 daughters and sons.

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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we
await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the
justice and joy of your Son.

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

C Amen

Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray as our Savior taught us.

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.

Sharing Holy Communion

*All baptized Christians are invited to share Christ's Body.
If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please come
forward and stand or kneel around the altar.*

Communion Song

Noel

Love incarnate, love divine,
Star and angels gave the sign.
Bow to babe on bended knee,
The Savior of humanity.
Unto us a Child is born;
He shall reign forevermore.

Chorus:

Noel, Noel!
Come and see what God has done!
Noel, Noel!
The story of amazing love!
The light of the world given for us.
Noel.

Son of God, and Son of man,
There before the world began.
Born to suffer, born to save,
Born to raise us from the grave.
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
He shall reign forevermore.

(Chorus 2x)

Prayer After Communion

L Let us pray.

God our redeemer, 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.

C Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

L 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.

Sending Song

On Christmas Night

ELW 274

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful king's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our redeemer made us glad?
Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his face,
then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before his face,
then life and health come in its place.
Angels rejoice with us and sing,
all for to see the newborn king.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night.
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heav'n;
peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen."

Dismissal

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

C Thanks be to God.

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On Christmas Night: Public Domain

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