

December 27, 2020

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road Okemos, MI 48864 517-349-0620

To make disciples for Jesus Christ... ...we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer, study and fellowship ...we **Equip** the people of God with a faith that works in real life ...we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:	Ellen Schoepf
Music Director:	Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist:	Bruce Williams
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Prelude

"The Holly and the Ivy"

arr. Christopher Wicks

GATHERING SONG

Once in Royal David's City roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a Once in low-ly cat - tle shed, 1 He came down to earth from heav-en who God and Lord of 2 all. is And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing 3 love; Not in that poor low - ly sta-ble, with 4 the ox - en stand-ing by, laid ba - by in where a moth-er her а man - ger for his bed: his shel - ter sta - ble, and his cra - dle was stall; and was а a gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a that child so for dear and bove; shall see him: but heav - en, set at God's right hand in high: we on that moth - er mild, Christ, her lit - tle child. Mar - y was Je - sus and meek and low-ly, lived on with the poor earth our Sav-ior ho-ly. his chil - dren on and he leads to the place where he is gone. there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like crowned. stars, with glo-ry

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright morning star, shines light in the world. By day and night, he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty, that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus, so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song! A song of hope, joy and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in the 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. We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

A reading from Genesis.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Vs. 1 & 2

0 Of the Fa - ther's love be the worlds be 1 got ten ere birth for - ev - er bless Oh, 2 that ed, when the vir - gin, whom seers in old 3 This is he time chant - ed of with the heights of heav'n a hosts, his 4 Let dore him; an - gel thee, with God 5 Christ, to the Fa ther, and, 0 Ho - ly 0 be, he is Al - pha and O me gan to ga, full Ho - ly of grace, by the Ghost con ceiv ing, ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph one ets pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow fore be him prais es sing; -Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv ing things that are, that he the source, the end ing he, of the bore the babe, the world's re -Sav - ior race, and the of our long - ex prom-ised in their faith ful word; now he shines, the and King; and ex - tol our God let no tongue on earth be and un - wea - ried prais es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -G 0 have been, and that fu - ture years shall see. re - vealed his deem er, first sa - cred face, pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord lent. si ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring vic - to - ry min ion, and e - ter - nal 0 ev - er - more and more. ev er ev - er - more and ev _ er _ more. ev - er - more and ev er more. and ev - er - more ev er more. ev - er - more and ev er _ more! A men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth: ⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

CAROL

Vs. 1 & 4



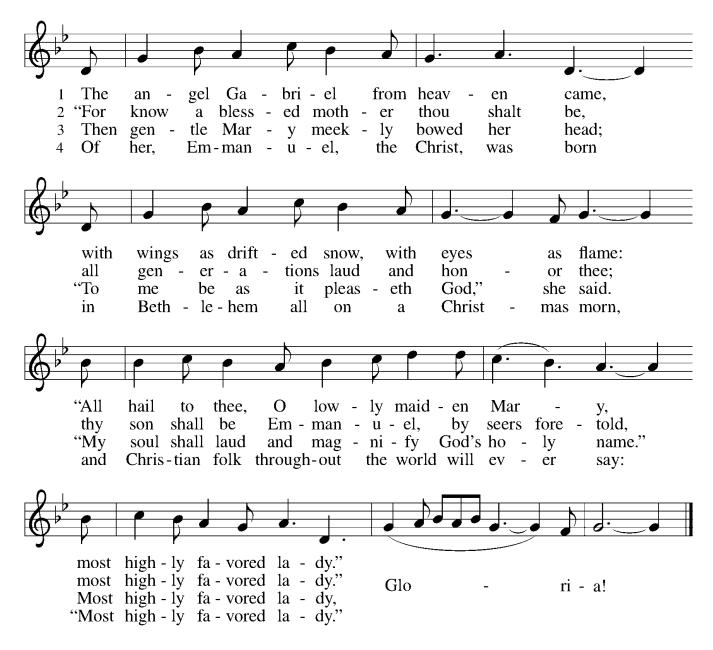
Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

A reading from Luke.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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 Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

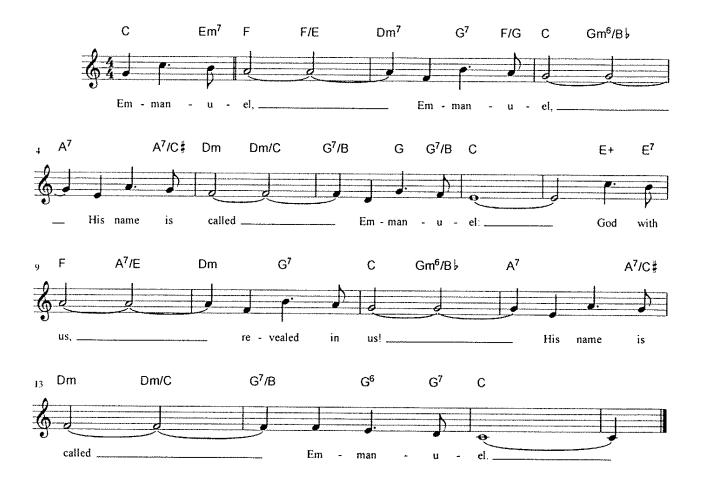
A reading from Matthew.

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Carol: Emmanuel (sing twice)



Text and music printed under CCLI license 720217

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

A reading from Luke.

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.

CAROL



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol A reading from Matthew.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

What Child Is This



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent. A reading from John.

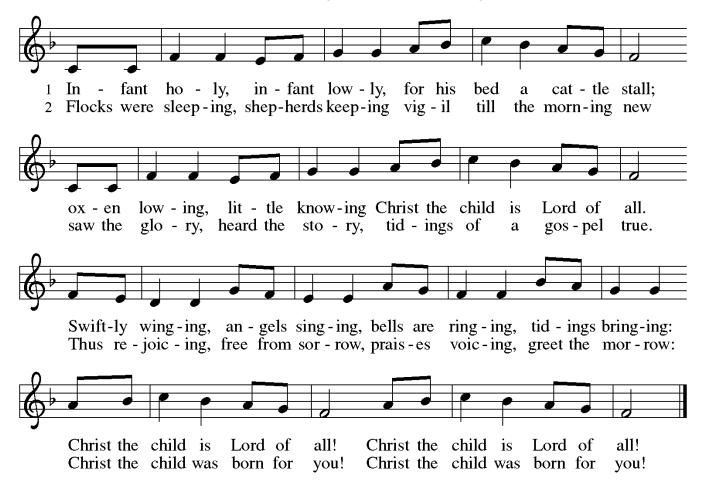
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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.

CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth. Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger, to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger, to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger, to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life, cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way, In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Oh God, Landscaper of Peace, you root us in love and tend to us like a tree by the water. Turn over the soil of our indifference and weed out the roots of violence and greed. In this season of joy and light, may our actions yield healing in a warring world, abundance in a hungry world, and comfort in a world of illness and hurt. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who calls us to a harvest of eternal peace.

Amen

PEACEThe peace of the Lord be with you always.And also with you.Peace be with you.

OFFERING

"He is Born, the Divine Christ Child"

arr. Dale Wood

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the tree of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



SANCTUS

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

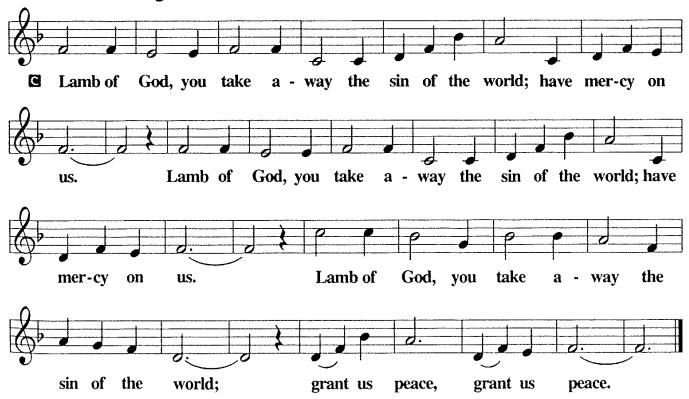
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good. *The assembly is seated*

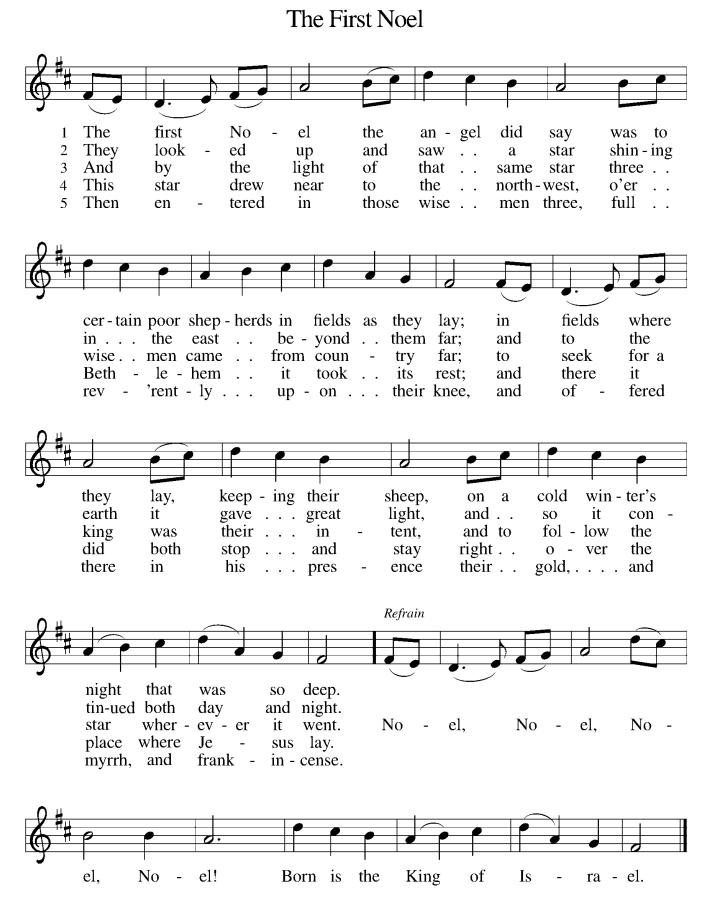
COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. *and each person may respond* Amen

Communion song:



CONGREGATIONAL SONG



Text: English traditional Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. **Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

Go Tell It on the Mountain



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**





Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement: We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, "for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith." (Galatians 3:26) We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God's love and grace to be our help and guide.

> <u>Email address</u> faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

> > **Websites**

Faith Lutheran Church \approx www.faithlutheranokemos.org North/West Lower Michigan Synod \approx www.mittensynod.org Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \approx www.elca.org

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You also can find the audio available on Faith's website under worship Sermons