



Order of Worship
December 24, 2017
5:00 pm

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)
3014 McKinley St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418
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Welcome to God's House today!!!

A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today! If you have no church family, and if we can be of any help to you, please speak with the pastor after the service. We invite all guests to sign the Guest Register. We pray you will feel God's love for you and be empowered to live as God's child this week.

Today's focus Advent is the season of preparation and expectation for the coming of Christ. It encourages us to examine our lives, to reflect on our need for God to enter our lives and to earnestly prepare for and eagerly await to coming of Christ. The first lesson turns our attention to confession, repentance and divine restoration. The second lesson sees the restoration of the faithful beginning in Christ and fulfilled in the revealing of Jesus Christ on the day of the Lord. Finally, using some of the images of apocalyptic, the Gospel urges the elect to be alert for the return of Christ for no one except the Father knows the day or the hour of the Lord's return.

Children are welcome in worship! If childcare is needed, an unattended nursery is open during worship services. It is located across from the restrooms next to the Church Offices.

Is there something you'd like us to pray for today? "Prayer Request" cards are in each pew. Please hand your request to an usher before the service or during the offering. They will give them to the pastor to include in the prayers for today.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. We joyfully share our conviction that this is The Lord's Table. We receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, together with the bread and wine in a manner our human reason cannot understand. (Real Presence) By communing together with our Lord:

- we express the belief that Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Man;
- that Jesus is our Savior and only way for salvation;
- that Jesus offers us His Body and Blood in a mysterious yet real way;
- that Christ's sacrificial death grants the forgiveness of our sins;
- and that God is strengthening us in this Sacrament to live a more godly; life and to amend with the help of the Holy Spirit, those areas not in conformity with God's will.

We declare these statements because it is our concern for people to not be hypocritical between their faith and celebrate the blessings of God's Table at the Altar. Persons unable to approach the Altar may be communed in the pew, please notify the Pastor or Elder if you wish this service.

The white wine is denatured (alcohol removed)

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

AS WE GATHER

Welcome to God's house for the celebration! A warm Gloria Dei welcome to those who are worshiping with us this evening, especially to our guests and visitors! We are thankful that you are here! The greatest event to ever take place in human history is being celebrated – **the birth of the Son of God in Bethlehem!** Please take a moment to pray that God would bless your time in His house and that your worship this evening would be in **"Spirit and in Truth!"** May our worship help you experience the peace which comes from knowing that you have been reconciled with your heavenly Father through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

✠ WE ENTER TO WORSHIP AND BE BLESSED ✠

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP "O Come, All Ye Faithful" **LSB 379**

INVOCATION

OUR CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

SOLO "O Holy Night" **Soloist Karmon Christopherson**

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Based on Isaiah 9 v1, 6b; Psalm 96 11-13

AT THE MANGER: MARY

The story of Mary: **St. Luke 1:26-35**

HYMN "What Child Is This" **LSB 370 v. 1, 2**

MARY'S LITANY *Isaiah 7:14*

AT THE MANGER: JOSEPH

The story of Joseph: **St. Matthew 1:18-21**

SOLO "Joseph's Song" **Soloist: Karmon Christopherson**

AT THE MANGER: THE STAR

The story of the Star: **Matthew 2:1-2, 7-10**

HYMN "Once in Royal David's City" **LSB 376**

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The story of Jesus' Birth: **Luke 2:1-7**

HYMN "Away In a Manger" **LSB 365**

AT THE MANGER: ANGELS

The story of the Angels: **Luke 2:8-14**

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" **LSB 368**

WE DECLARE THE STEADFAST LOVE OF OUR LORD!
THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
HYMN OF THE DAY "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" **LBW 55**
THE SERMON "The Original Love Story" **Luke 2:1-20**

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING
CHRISTMAS LITANY OF PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ANGUS DEI Tune: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" **LSB 357**

DISTRIBUTION **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" **LSB 361**

"I Am So Glad" **LBW 69**

SONG OF SIMEON

Luke 2:29-32

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT

THE LESSON OF LOVE – FOR GOD IS LOVE **1 John 4:7-16**

CLOSING HYMN "Silent Night" **LSB 363**

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

+ Silent Prayer +

ANNOUNCEMENTS/POSTLUDE

✠ WE DEPART TO SERVE ✠

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

December 24 "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (Luke 1:30-32a)

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

What is your favorite story? This Christmas Eve Day, The Lutheran Hour speaks about God's greatest story.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

December 31 "Children of Promise" (Galatians 4:4-7)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

Our identity as God's children encourages us to live in His grace, to embrace the freedom Jesus won, and to resist the ways of the world that strive to keep us captive.

Listen on WCCO AM at 6:05 am, Sunday mornings, or listen anytime at www.lutheranhour.org or on XM Satellite Radio you can also hear The Lutheran Hour on XM 170 Sundays at noon



STEWARDSHIP: December 24 – Christmas Eve

Luke 2:12 “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” Truly, as St. Paul said, He who was rich for our sakes became poor, for behold the King who must be laid in a manger, no crib for His bed! There in the manger is the very picture of self-giving generosity.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE December 24 “Christmas celebrates more than just Jesus’ birthday. This historical event testifies to unchangeable truth about humankind and our Almighty Maker. It bestows upon us the honor of a special connection to the Lord God that makes us more precious than any other creature. It forms the foundation for all peace and love and joy and hope by revealing His salvation and testifying to how we participate in His everlasting life. Christmas profoundly proves the Gospel to be our history, identity, and destiny, and it proclaims a distinctly life-affirming reality.” *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

Lessons for the 1st Sunday After Christmas

Is. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 111; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



Salvation Army Christmas Gift Collection Tree collected \$563 worth of toys. The Social Ministry Committee would like thank everyone who so graciously donated toys in order to help make a child’s Christmas brighter.

18 Holiday Baskets were delivered to our shut-ins. Thank you to everyone who shopped and helped will the assembly!



Our Sanctuary will be beautiful for the Christmas Season!

18 poinsettia plants were donated and will be arranged throughout the Church for the Christmas services.

Thank You!

**“I will honor Christmas in my heart,
and try to keep it all the year.”**

— Charles Dickens

BIRTHDAYS: 25th Lori Sharbono, 27th Ruby Holzinger

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Shirley & Rudy Holzinger – Memory of Parents

FLOWERS: Christmas Poinsettias

IN OUR PRAYERS: Karmon Christopherson, Millie Demcho, Millie Eckhardt, Rose Ehnes, Deb Forsberg, Harriet Harris, Gwen Johnson, Ada Samson, Dorothy Woll

REQUESTED PRAYERS:

Tyler Blumke (Son of Layne Betterman's Coworker) Brain cyst

Larry Derksen (Shirley's brother) – recovery from surgery

Dr. Lori Ongeri (Debra Forsberg's niece) – for a baby boy

Jeffrey Lucero (Debra Fosberg's nephew) – Ulcer

Vera Gade (Pastor's mother) recovering at home

John Gillund (Patty & Meridel's brother) heart surgery recovery

Dick Gillund (Patty & Meridel's brother)

Elaine Gillund – surgery and radiation

Evie Horman (Sandy Westling's sister) recovery – heart issues

Brandon Johnson (son of Lori Sharbono) continued good results

Roxie Johnson (Morelli's niece) heart issues & upcoming surgery

Steve Kaiser (friend of Patty Lyrenmann's brother) – COPD

Beverly Papcek (Grunnes' cousin) – numb leg, but not cancer

Amy Price (Morelli's niece) – treatments for stage 4 cancer

Jimmy Royal & Dave (friends of Dick Gillund)

LaDonna Sund (Verlayne's sister) pacemaker surgery & recovery

Marvin & Norma Thor – poor health/stomach cancer

Mary Phillips and Dan Crocker – Chronic Illness

Seth Ayala (Verlayne's nephew) – continuing problems

"IN OUR PRAYERS" AND "REQUESTED PRAYERS"

If you have family members or friends who require our prayers, please use the prayer request cards found in the pews or at the Ushers' counter and give to the office. They will be added to the Prayer list. Any updates to the current list? Let the office know

HINGES-Opening Your Church's Doors To The Community

In the past, the doors of the church opened inward, but now people are no longer coming in through Church doors as they once did. Instead, God is calling His Church (you) to open the doors outward as the people of God take the Gospel to the community. Copies of the book we are reading and will have discussion groups in January are available. Ask Pastor for one!!!

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

12/24 Sun	The Fourth Sunday in Advent
	8:45 am Education Hour
	10:00 am Worship
	5:00 pm The Nativity of Our Lord w/HC
	6:00 pm NA
12/25 Mon	10:00 am The Nativity of Our Lord w/HC
	6:30 pm AIAnon 1
	8:00 pm AA/AIAnon 2
12/27 Wed	10:00 am BIBLE STUDY
	6:30 pm TLWCC Bible Study
12/29 Fri	5:00 pm TLWCC Music Practice
	8:00 pm AA/AIAnon
12/30 Sat	10:00 am TLWCC Worship
	6:00 pm TLWCC Worship & Fellowship
12/31 Sun	First Sunday After Christmas
	8:45 am Education Hour
	10:00 am Worship
	6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Ushers: Lyrenmanns

Counters: Morellis

Altar Care: The Lyrenmanns

Attendance 12/17/17: 38

Offerings -- Regular \$1,830; Loose: \$122; Flowers \$13;

Candle \$6

Total: \$1,971

Needed each week for 2017: \$3,477.59

Thanks to everyone who helped fill the SALVATION ARMY Grocery Cart!

So far for the month of December

120 pounds of food was donated and delivered.

As a reminder, high demand items are ethnic foods, low sugar and sodium canned goods; flour, rice (white, jasmine, or brown), 100% fruit juices; low sugar cereal; canned chicken, salmon or pork; granola bars and dried fruit; condiments and spices. Hygiene items: toothpaste, toilet tissue, shampoo, bar soap and deodorant.

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS ONLY.

Catechesis Note for the Week

WHY IS THE INCARNATION IMPORTANT?

Incarnation is a term used by theologians to indicate that Jesus, the Son of God, took on human flesh. This is similar to the hypostatic union. The difference is that the hypostatic union explains how Jesus' two natures are joined, and the Incarnation more specifically affirms His humanity and His Divinity.

The word **Incarnation** means "the act of being made flesh." It comes from the Latin version of John 1:14, which in English reads, "**The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.**" Because of the near-exclusive use of the Latin Vulgate in the church through the Middle Ages, the Latin term became standard.

Biblical support for Jesus' humanity is extensive. The Gospels report Jesus' human needs including sleep (Luke 8:23), food (Matthew 4:2; 21:18), and physical protection (Matthew 2:13-15; John 10:39). Other indications of His humanity are that He perspired (Luke 22:43-44) and bled (John 19:34). Jesus also expressed emotions including joy (John 15:11), sorrow (Matthew 26:37), and anger (Mark 3:5). During His life, Jesus referred to Himself as a man (John 8:40), and after His resurrection His humanity was still recognized (Acts 2:22).

But the purpose of the Incarnation was not to taste food or to feel sorrow. The Son of God came in the flesh in order to be the Savior of mankind. First, it was necessary to be born "**under the law**" (Galatians 4:4). All of us have failed to fulfill God's Law. Christ came in the flesh, under the Law, to fulfill the Law on our behalf (Matthew 5:17; Galatians 4:5).

Second, it was necessary for the Savior to shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22). A blood sacrifice, of course, requires a body of flesh and blood. And this was God's plan for the Incarnation: "**When Christ came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering [under the Old Covenant] you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me'**" (Hebrews 10:5). Without the Incarnation, Christ could not really die, and the cross is meaningless.

God did an incredible work in sending His only begotten Son into the world and providing us with a salvation we do not deserve. Praise the Lord for that moment in which "**the Word became flesh.**"

We are now redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:19)