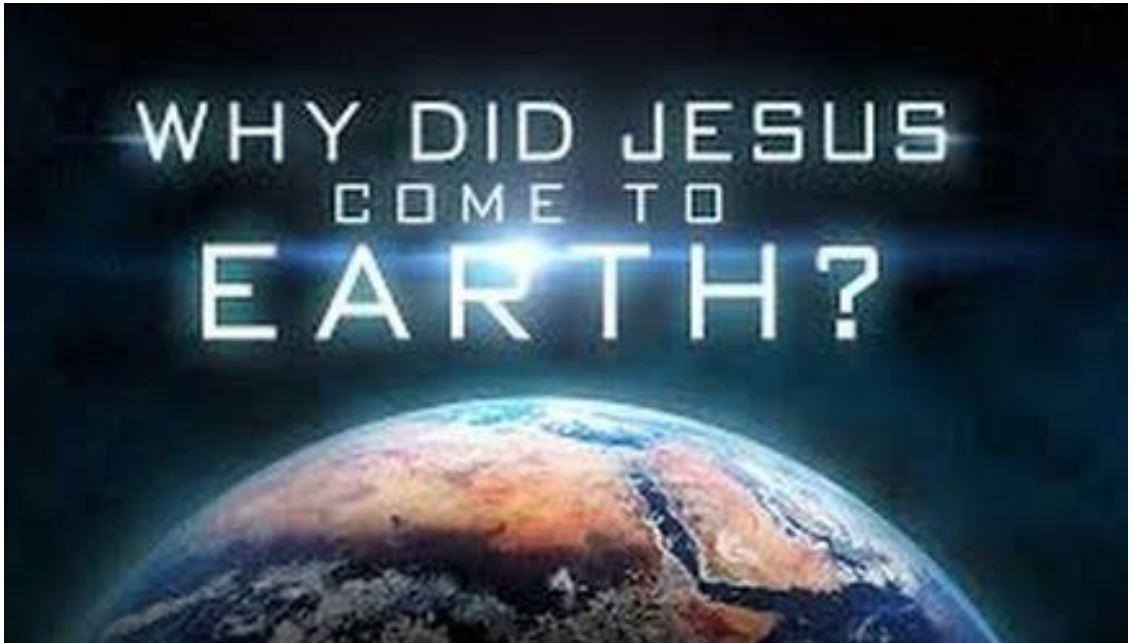


Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Royal Family Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



CHRISTMAS SERIES II: "WHY JESUS CAME TO EARTH"

**Joint Order of Worship December 15, 2024 | 10:30 AM
Pastor Matthew Cephus**

**3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-781-1989**

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

Pianist: Karrie Kikeh

Welcome to God's House!

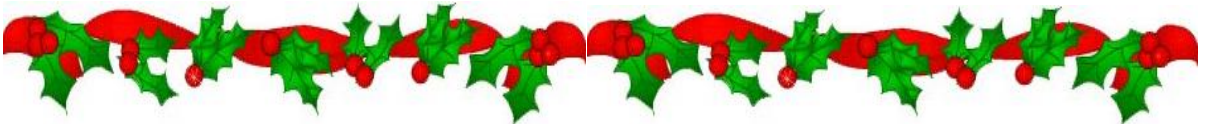
Today's Topic: Why do we celebrate Christmas? Most Christians will say to remember the birth of Jesus. But why did Jesus come to earth in the first place? In this sermon series, we will look at two additional purposes why Jesus came at Christmas. You'll learn about God's character and be reminded of the most important gift of all.

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 assistance to you, please speak with the Pastor after the service or via the church office. We pray you will feel God's love for you and be empowered to live as God's child this week. We look forward to seeing you again.

Is there something you'd like us to pray for today? If you have family members or friends who require our prayers, please use the prayer request cards found in each pew. They will be added to the Prayer list. You can hand your request to an usher before the service or during the offering. They will be given to the Pastor to be included in the prayers for today.

Other prayer requests can be made by contacting the church office at 612.781.1989.

Children are welcome in worship!



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Invites you to join our Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, December 24th, 3 pm with Holy Communion

Christmas Day, December 25th, 10am with Holy Communion

With Pastor Matthew Cephus

The Third Sunday of Advent

AS WE GATHER: God Himself invaded human history on a search and rescue mission for you and me. That's why Jesus had to come. And that's why we have to trust Him as Savior.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO

"The King is Coming"

Karmon Christopherson

INVOCATION

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS

L: Let us confess our sins unto God our Heavenly Father who truly loves us.

C: **Lord Jesus, we have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in our daily lives. Our sins and shortcomings present us with a list of accusations, but we thank you that they will not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver us from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, and everything that prevents us taking delight in you. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**The Christmas Story; Luke 2
"What Child is This" LSB 370 v. 1, 3**

Text & Tune: Public Domain

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.

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;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

+ NURTURE +

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Joy to the World"

v. 1, 2, 4

Text & Tune: Public domain

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:14-17

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG OF THE DAY

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 379

Text & Tune: Public Domain

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels:

Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

MESSAGE

Pastor Matthew Cephus

Christmas Series II: "Why Jesus Came to Earth"

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

+ *EMPOWER* +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Go Tell It on The Mountain"

LSB 388

Text & music: Public domain

***Refrain:* Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and every-where;
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled, When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

+ *Silent Prayer* +

POSTLUDE

+ *WE DEPART TO SERVE* +

+ + +

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used with permission. Hymns are copied with permission: CCLI # 689918

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

12/15 Sun

Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 am Joint Worship Service w/Pastor Matthew Cephus

6:00 pm NA

12/16 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AlAnon (upstairs)

12/19 Thurs

5:30 pm Thursday Evening Bible Study

12/20 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

12/21 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

4:00 pm Living Word Board Meeting

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

12/22 Sun

Fourth Sunday in Advent

**10:00 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Karmon Christopherson and Newton Weah

Ushers: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Altar Care: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Counters: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

