

Nativity of Our Lord: December 25, 2020

Treaty 4 Territory

We are privileged to gather today in Treaty 4 Territory and the traditional homeland of the Metis.

Welcome Statement

You are welcome here, you, whose face does not resemble mine, whose spirit I may not define, you, whose eyes have seen, what I will never dream. You, whose frame is bent or broken, whose mind fears the unspoken. You are welcome here.

Regardless of your race, your age, your gender identity or expression, your marital status, physical and mental ability, your sexual orientation, country of origin, economic and religious status, you will be honoured here.

For Christ has made us whole and Christ has set us free. His daily grace enables us to live in harmony.

OPENING HYMN – “A Stable Lamp Is Lighted”

1. A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;
a barn shall harbour heaven, a stall become a shrine.

2. This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;
the palm shall strew its branches, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, though heavy, dull and dumb,
and lie within the roadway to pave his kingdom come.

3. Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die;
the sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry for gifts of love abused;
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's blood again refused.

4. But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry in praises of the child
by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.

GREETING - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted the chosen people,
and has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The holy arm of the LORD is bared
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 1:1-14 The holy gospel acc. to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The Word was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through the Word, without whom not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in the Word 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.

¹⁰The light 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 a 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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY – “What Child Is This” – ELW 296

1. What child is this who laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While silent stars are sleeping.
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angles sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe the son of Mary.

2. 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.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come 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 THE PEOPLE

As we celebrate Christmas, we join the praise of the cosmos, and we intercede for the church, the earth, the world, and all in need. These bids invite your prayers, either silently or aloud. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the globe.
A brief silence.

We pray for all who minister in the church.
A brief silence.

We pray for our congregation.
A brief silence.

We pray for the well-being of plants and animals.
A brief silence.

We pray for all who care for the earth.
A brief silence.

We pray for peace between and within the nations of the world.
A brief silence.

We pray for an increase of justice in every land.

A brief silence.

We pray for an end to prejudices of all kinds.

A brief silence.

We pray for all elected government officials.

A brief silence.

We pray for all who are alone on this holiday.

A brief silence.

We pray for our families and friends.

A brief silence.

We pray for those in need – those near, those far away.

A brief silence.

We pray for all who suffer from the coronavirus.

A brief silence.

We pray for those in sorrow or despair.

A brief silence.

We pray for the sick and the dying.

A brief silence.

Finally, we pray for the desires of our own hearts.

A brief silence.

We praise God for the lives of all those who have died in the faith.

A brief silence.

O God, Majesty on high, Word of salvation, Power of glory, on this holy day we ask you to receive our prayers and to visit the world with your love, granting new life to the earth and its peoples. through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Holy God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world, and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.

For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh, to shine in our world's darkness, to speak peace to all peoples, and to welcome us as members of your family.

For your loving Word, we adore you, O God. **We adore you, O God.**

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,
 that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,
 we may live as your children,
 bearing your goodness throughout the world.
 For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever. Amen. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.**

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
 proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news,
 and led the magi by a star, bless us this day + through the Word made
 flesh. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN – “Joy To The World” – ELW 267

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive its King;
 Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
 And heav'n and nature sing. 3X

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let all their songs employ,
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills& plains
 Repeat the sounding joy. 3X

Devotional Music Links: For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress: [“From Heaven Above;”](#) [“See Amid the Winter’s Snow;”](#) [“Where Shepherds Lately Kneel.”](#)

Daily Prayer Resources are available, including simple forms of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer; Responsive Prayer; and prayers for mealtimes and other occasions.

Due to copyright restrictions, we are only able to provide downloadable hymns that are in the public domain and selected hymns for limited use. Other suggestions provided above may be found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. To purchase copies of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and *All Creation Sings* for the home, visit the [Augsburg Fortress website](#) or call 1-800-328-4648. Selected hymns from *All Creation Sings* will be provided for limited use.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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