

THE MEMORIES THAT TOUCH US,  
THE MOMENTS THAT WARM US,  
THE GOD WHO LOVES US...

# Christmas

SHINES ITS  
*miracle*  
IN OUR  
*hearts.*



*When they saw him, they worshipped him.*

MATTHEW 28:17

**St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church**  
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*Christmas Day - Dec. 25, 2019*

# We Welcome You!

**Opening Hymn:** 55 *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

**Prayer of the Day:**

M: *Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn:** 50 *Once in Royal David's City*

INVOCATION:

M: In the name of the Father

**C: Who so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.**

M: In the name of the Son

**C: Who was wrapped in human flesh in the first Christmas**

M: In the name of the Holy Spirit

**C: Who makes our hearts Christ's manger? Amen**

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

M: Dear Lord, we come to you this Christmas Day confessing our sins. Our hearts often resemble that crowded inn in Bethlehem. We have decorated our homes;

**C: But not our lives.**

M: We have been busy with many things

**C: And have forgotten the One Thing.**

M: We have delighted in the material

**C: And have neglected the spiritual.**

M: We have given presents to many people.

**C: And have forgotten about you.**

M: Forgive us for our worldliness,

**C: Our "busy-ness" which leaves little room for you in our lives.**

M: Remove the clutter in our lives

**C: And make our hearts you home.**

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

**First Lesson - Isaiah 52:7-10**

*The return of Israel from captivity prefigured the work of the Word made flesh who redeemed mankind from sin. The prophecy pictures the watchmen of Jerusalem standing sentinel on the city walls. Suddenly they see messengers descending the mountains that surround Zion. The watchmen shout for joy because the messengers bring news of peace, goodness and rescue: Your God reigns! God is in control and is ruling for his people. He laid bare his holy arm by hiding himself in flesh in order to buy back Jerusalem—not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. God kept his promise, and all the ends of earth will see his salvation.*

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.<sup>9</sup> Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.<sup>10</sup> The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

**Hymn:** 61 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**Second Lesson - Hebrews 1:1-9**

*The arrival of God in the flesh inaugurated the last age of this earth. In Jesus Christ all the promises God made were kept. In this age of promises kept, God's interaction with mankind fundamentally changed. In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. But in these latter days, God sent the One who made the universe and who sustains it by the breath of his mouth. God sent the Son who is the exact representation of God's being and the radiance of his glory. This is the One who came to speak to the people of God. This is the One who took on flesh and blood and became a companion of man—for one purpose: purification of our sins.*

<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.<sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.<sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? <sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” <sup>7</sup> In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.” <sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

**Verse of the Day:** *Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia. (Galatians 4:4,5a)*

**Hymn:** 63 Angels We Have Heard on High

**Gospel - John 1:1-14**

*John’s Christmas story begins in eternity within the Godhead. That the Son is eternally God and that he shared in the creation of the universe only underscores the enormity of his condescension to become man. In a paucity of words Scripture describes the indescribable: Καὶ ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν. “And the Word flesh became and tented among us.” How shocking that this had to be true! God had to become flesh and blood to be born under law, to suffer, and to die that he might redeem us. John’s expression, “He tented among us,” recalls the tabernacle of the Exodus that moved with the people of God in the desert. God was there beneath the skins. So with Christ, God’s glory could be seen as he came in grace and truth, in flesh and blood, to give us the right to be children of God.*

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup> There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of

God - <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Sermon Hymn:** 54 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

**Sermon:** After Christmas Re-gifting

**Offering:** *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

**Prayer of the Church:**

**M:** Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

**C: Receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

**M:** You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

**C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**

**M:** You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

**C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

**M:** You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the "joy that will be

**C: Amen**

for all people" be our joy. May the "peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests" be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

**C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer:**

**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.**

**Hymn:** 47 Behold, a Branch Is Growing

**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn:** 707 Peace Came to Earth

**Ushers:** Christmas Day – Please Volunteer to Help  
December 29 – Paul Milbrath & Lucas Zuehlke  
New Year's Eve – Please Volunteer to Help

**Greeters:** Christmas Day – Please Volunteer to Help  
December 29 – Frank & Sue Kramer  
New Year's Eve – Please Volunteer to Help