

Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 27, 2020 - Christmas 1

Welcome: *We would like to thank Noah Frey and Emily Coonjah for reading the lessons today.*

Prelude: *Cello solo, written by Vivaldi – Largo. Performed by Anelise Jorgenson*

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *C: And also with you.*

Call to Worship ~ in *Prayers for Christmas*, posted on the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Let the love that shaped earth and heaven... *dwell within us this Christmas.*

Let the love that created humanity... *dwell within us this Christmas.*

Let the love that overcomes suffering... *dwell within us this Christmas.*

Let the love that causes us to rejoice... *dwell within us this Christmas.*

Let the love that forgives and renews... *dwell within us this Christmas.*

Let the love that brings the blessing of peace... *dwell within us this Christmas.*

And may we share that peace

with all people near and far. Amen.

Song – Once in Royal David's City¹

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above:
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather rough, bright light stars, with glory crowned.

Prayer of the Day

The Readings

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
The Word of the Lord

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.
The Word of the Lord

Song: Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming²

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Saviour when half-spent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendour the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us and lightens every load.

O Saviour, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Saviour, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray, to the bright courts of heaven, and into endless day.

The Holy Gospel according to John 1:1-18

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

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

And 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. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection

Song: Love Has Come³

Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it. Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother. What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come, and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

Prayers of the People

We pray: *Lord, in your mercy...* and respond: *Hear our prayer.*

Holy Communion (Zoom Only)

The Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us;

C: 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, and 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

Song – It Came Upon A Midnight Clear⁴

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with us. *C: Thanks be to God*

¹ ELW hymn #269. In the public domain.

² ELW hymn #272. In the public domain

³ Text: Ken Bible. Music: F. Seguin, *Recueil de noels composes en langue provencale*, 1856. ©1996, Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A736240. All rights reserved.

⁴ ELW hymn #282. In the public domain.