

St. Clairsville Lutheran Parish

Messiah, Bedford – 6:30 P.M.

WELCOME VISITORS!

We're glad to have you worship with us today.

December 24, 2011

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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Prelude

+Confession and Forgiveness: page 94-96

P In the name of the Father, and of the
+Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God,
To whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from
whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one
another.

P Most merciful God,

C **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free
ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought,
word and deed, by what we have done and by what we
have left undone. We have not loved you with our
whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves. For the sake of you Son, Jesus Christ, have
mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that
we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to
the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God
forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister
of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore
declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in
the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy
Spirit.

C **Amen**

+**Gathering Song:** 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful
(printed on next page)

+P 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.**

+**Hymn of Praise:** hymn 289 Angels We Have Heard on High
(printed on next page)

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled
in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been
born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and
he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall
be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will
establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this
time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do
this.

R **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96: *(read responsively)*

Sing to the LORD | a new song;*

sing to the LORD, all | the whole earth.

²Sing to the LORD and | bless his name;*

**proclaim the good news of his salvation from | day to
day.**

³Declare his glory a- | mong the nations*

and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;*

he is more to be feared | than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;*

but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.

⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!*

Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;*

ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his name;*

bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;*

let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!*

**He has made the world so firm that it cannot be
moved; he will judge the peo- | ples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all | that is in it;*

let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD | when he comes,*

when he comes to | judge the earth.

¹³He will judge the | world with righteousness*

and the peoples | with his truth.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

R Thanks be to God.

+Gospel Acclamation: hymn 300 The First Noel

(printed on next page)

+Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

R Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

P The gospel of the Lord.

R **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

+Hymn of the Day hymn 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(printed on next page)

+Apostles' Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

A Filled with joy at the birth of the one sent to save us, let us offer our prayers to God who gives us peace and hope.

A We give you thanks for the good news of great joy you have once again announced to your people. Send us on our way glorifying and praising you for all the good news that we hear and see. God of our salvation,

C **have mercy and hear us.**

A Pierce the darkness of our world. Draw the nations to your brilliant light, that justice and peace may flourish, the rod of oppressors may be broken, and the tools of warfare may be destroyed. God of our salvation,

C **have mercy and hear us.**

A Change us, gracious God, through the salvation you have sent. Turn us from the ways of this world and lead us into lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly. God of our salvation,

C **have mercy and hear us.**

A Hold gently in your arms all those who long for wholeness and healing in their lives (*especially*). Grant that they may receive good news of great joy in the coming of the Savior and through the care and compassion we offer them in his name. God of our salvation,

C **have mercy and hear us.**

A Bless the people of this congregation. Bind the wounds that divide us. Sanctify us with the presence of the one born to us in the city of David, that we may announce your salvation to friend and stranger. God of our salvation,

C **have mercy and hear us.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Unite us with your holy angels and with the saints who have died in the light of your salvation, that we may stand with them before you as your light banishes all remaining darkness. God of our salvation,

C have mercy and hear us.

P Grant us these prayers, almighty Father, in the name of your Word made flesh dwelling among us, Jesus Christ our Lord

C Amen

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

+Offertory: hymn #296 What Child is This
(printed on next page)

+Offertory Prayer page 107

P Let us pray...

C Amen

+Great Thanksgiving pages 107-108

Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray...

C Amen

Lighting of Individual Candles hymn 281 Silent Night
(printed on next page)

+Benediction: page 114

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and +give you peace. In the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen

+Sending Hymn 267 Joy to the World *(printed on next page)*

+Dismissal: page 115

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

R Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Please stand as you are able