

Christmas Eve
Service

at

St. Clairsville Lutheran Parish

Messiah

+Gathering Song #283 Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

+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

#289 Angels We Have Heard on High

+Prayer of the Day:

P Let us pray...Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

A Reading from Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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.

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 among the nations*

and his wonders among 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 honor and power.

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

bring offerings and come into his courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;*

let the whole earth tremble 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 peoples 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from Titus, chapter 2, verses 11-14

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

+Gospel Acclamation: hymn #300 The First Noel

+The Holy Gospel according to 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,

¹⁴"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.

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

(CHILDREN'S SERMON)

SERMON

+Hymn of the Day

#270 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

+Apostles' Creed: page 105

+PRAYERS:

A Gathered in the joy of promises fulfilled, let us bring our needs and our thanksgivings to God.

A We pray for the church, that the light of Christ will shine brightly in the words and deeds of all who carry his presence in their hearts. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us! God of grace and peace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the nations of the earth, that the message of the Prince of Peace will transform the lives of all who are threatened by unrest and turmoil. God of grace and peace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for all whose lives make it difficult to celebrate this day, that they may know the power and salvation of the Savior of the world. God of grace and peace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the sick (*especially*). Fill their hearts with the message of the angel: Do not be afraid, for to you is born a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. God of grace and peace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the leaders of this congregation and this parish, that new visions of ministry and mission may inspire us to echo the angels' song of glory to God. God of grace and peace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We give thanks for those who have died in the faith (*especially*). As Mary cradled the Christ child in her arms, cradle those who dwell in your eternal presence with the pure light of your love. God of grace and peace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Hear all our prayers, gracious God, and receive them in the name of the Word made flesh, your Son, 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

+Offertory Prayer page 107

+Great Thanksgiving pages 107-108

+Lord's Prayer: page 112

Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray...

C Amen

+LIGHTING OF INDIVIDUAL CANDLES

Hymn #281 Silent Night

Post Communion Prayer p. 74

A Let us pray...

C Amen

Benediction p. 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

+Dismissal: p. 115

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

R Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Please stand as you are able