

Christmas Eve  
Service

at

St. Clairsville Lutheran Parish

St. Peter's

**+Gathering Song #45** 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**

#39 Joy to the World

**+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 The First Lesson** is written in the ninth chapter of **Isaiah, 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.

<sup>3</sup>You 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.

<sup>4</sup>For 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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For 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.

<sup>7</sup>His 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

Sing to the LORD a new song;\*

**sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.**

<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD and bless his name;\*

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

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations\*

**and his wonders among all peoples.**

<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;\*

**he is more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;\*

**but it is the LORD who made the heavens.**

<sup>6</sup>Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!\*

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

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;\*

**ascribe to the LORD honor and power.**

<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name;\*

**bring offerings and come into his courts.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;\*

**let the whole earth tremble before him.**

<sup>10</sup>Tell 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."**

<sup>11</sup>Let 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.**

<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD | when he comes,\*

**when he comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>He will judge the world with righteousness\*

**and the peoples with his truth.**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**A The Second Lesson** is written in the second  
chapter of **Titus, verses 11-14**

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to  
all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly  
passions, and in the present age to live lives that are  
self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for  
the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of  
our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He 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**

**Verse:** page 62

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**+ GOSPEL - Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

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

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**+Hymn of the Day**

#67 Away in a Manger

**+Apostles' Creed: page 65**

**+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**

**+PEACE:**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Peace be with you      **R Peace be with you.**

**OFFERING and OFFERTORY**

**Hymn #40 What Child Is This**

**+Offertory Prayer** page 67

**+Great Thanksgiving** pages 68-71

**+Lord's Prayer:** page 71

**Communion**

**+LIGHTING OF INDIVIDUAL CANDLES**

**Hymn #65** Silent Night

**Post Communion Prayer** p. 74

**A** Let us pray...

**C** Amen

**Benediction** p. 74

**+Sending Hymn #60** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**+Dismissal:** p. 74

+Please stand as you are able