



# Faith Lutheran Church

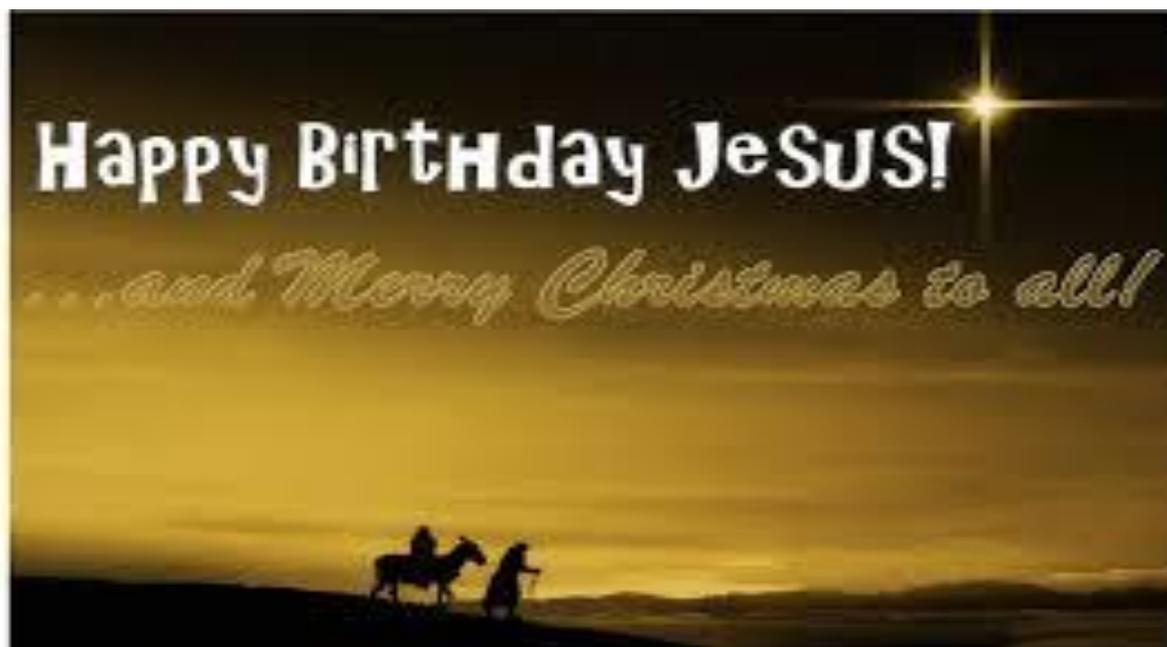
*Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ*

**Christmas Day Service**  
**Sunday, December 25, 2016**



# PRELUDE

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS



# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



P: Blessed be the holy one of Israel,  
the Word made flesh, the Power  
of the Most High, + one God,  
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



★

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor. Gracious God,

**C: In Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure o welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

★



**P:** I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name.

**C:** Amen.



Opening Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**



**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!**



**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!**



★

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

**C: Amen.**



## INTRODUCTION

P: On this Christmas morning, the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth.



The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh - in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

**C: Amen**



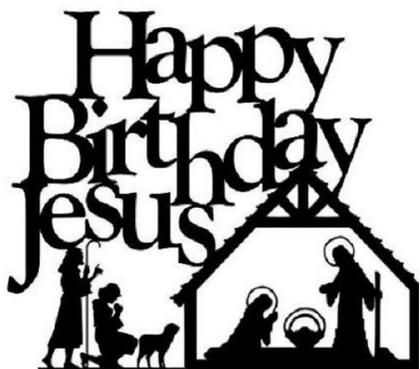
## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. (A brief silence.)

**ALL:** **Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light.**



**By your grace adopt us as your children  
and enlighten us with your Spirit,  
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer  
and Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever. Amen.**



## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10**

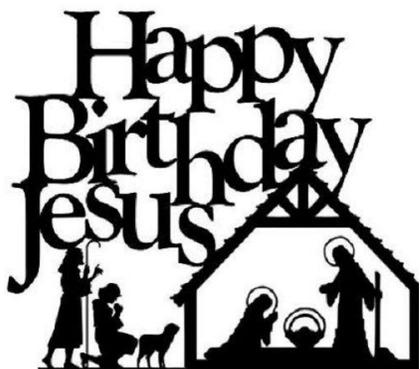
A reading from Isaiah, the 52<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen!

Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.



★ Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. ★



R: Word of God, word of life.

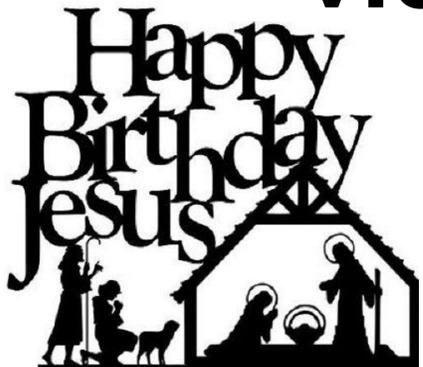
**C: Thanks be to God.**

★

# PSALM: Psalm 98 ~ A Responsive Reading

**R:** Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**C:** **O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

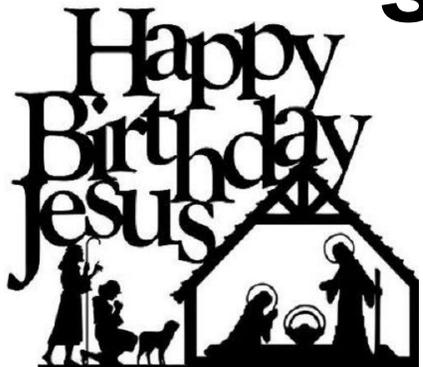


★

R: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**C: Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

★



R: Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

**C: With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**



★

R: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

**C: Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

★



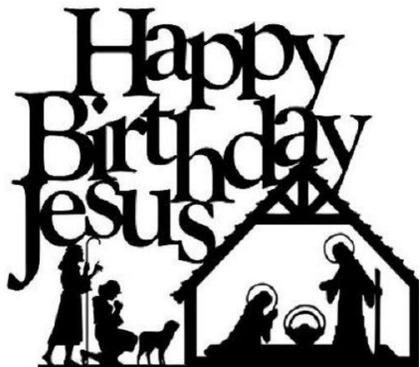
R: The LORD will judge the world with  
righteousness and the peoples with  
equity.



## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4**

A reading from Hebrews, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.



★ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ★



R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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★



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.



# GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.



The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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



# SERMON

**“Christ for All Times”**



★ **Hymn of the Day “Angels We Have Heard on High”** ★

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain**

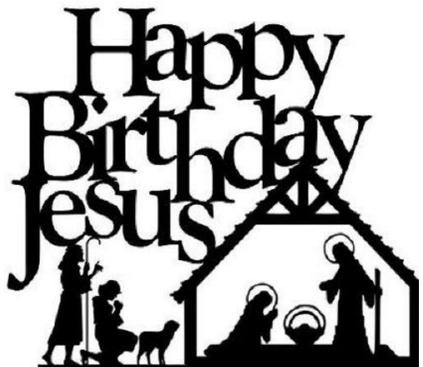
**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.**



**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?**

**Refrain**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo. Refrain**



**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.**

**Refrain**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.**



# **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only  
Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**



**suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father,  
and he will come 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.**



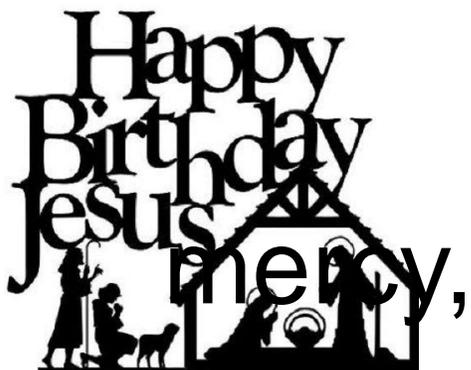
# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

(A brief silence.) Holy God, you raise up leaders throughout the church to proclaim your word of hope. Unite the church through the good news

of salvation, so that all will know and experience your glory. Lord, in your

**C: hear our prayer.**



★

P: Holy God, you created mountains and hills, seas and rivers, and all creatures. Reveal to us the goodness of all you have made so that we live wisely with these your gifts. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



★

P: Holy God, you desire that all people live in peace. Guide all in positions of authority to lead with equity, and give courage to advocates who speak for the voiceless.

Lord, in your mercy,

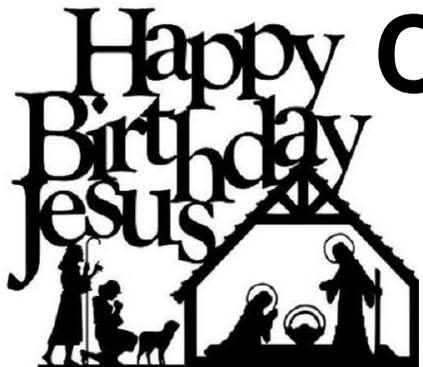
**C: hear our prayer.**



★

P: Holy God, you sent your Son to be our physician and remedy. Strengthen medical professionals and counselors to care for the sick and grieving (*especially*), so that all people experience healing and consolation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**



★

P: Holy God, you gather us together in community, blessing us with friends and family. Make yourself known to all who participate in worship today, and send us forth to serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

★



★

P: Holy God, you show your love and faithfulness in every generation. Through the witness of our ancestors in the faith, you have shown us how to testify to your grace and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

★



P: Hear the prayers of your people,  
glorious God, for the sake of the one  
who took on our nature and form to  
redeem the whole world, Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**



# PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

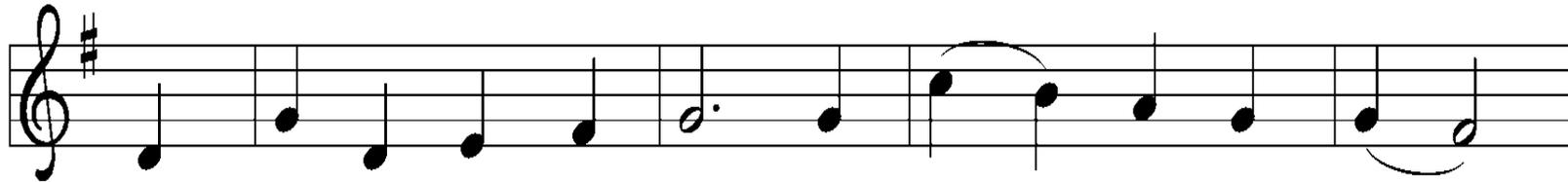


~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

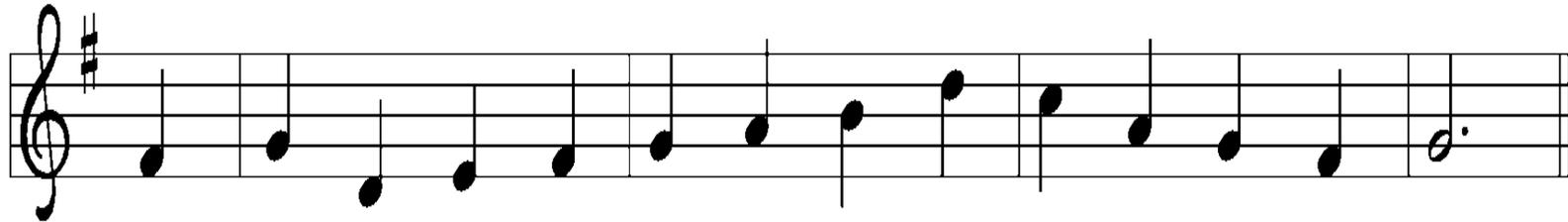
**“Mary Did You Know”  
By Straight No Chaser**



# OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.



# OFFERING PRAYER

P: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

**C: Amen**



# DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION



# THE 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**



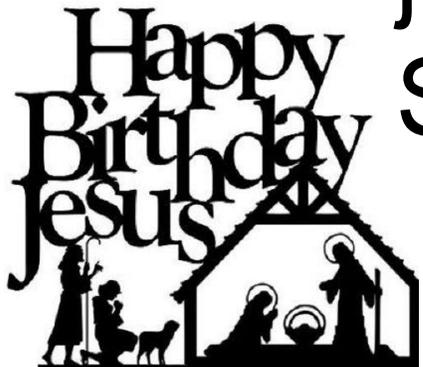
~ **COMMUNION** ~



# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:Amen**



# **BLESSING**

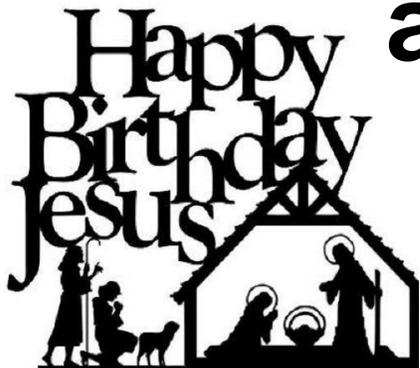
**P:** May Christ who by his incarnation has filled us with a grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**



# **Closing Hymn “Joy to the World”**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**



★ Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.



**No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**



**He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**



# DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **Peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**





***May God's Blessings Be  
With You And Your Family  
Throughout The Year  
Merry Christmas, Everyone!***









