

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
The Nativity of Our Lord



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word  
We gather around the Word (worship)  
We grow in the Word (education)  
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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**Wisconsin Synod**  
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**Welcome!**

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us for coffee after the service. To allow for social distancing, please don't linger in front of the kitchen and bathroom.

**A SAVIOR BORN TO DWELL AMONG US**

For centuries on Christmas Day the Church has read chapter one of St. John's Gospel. There, in just a few simple words, Scripture describes the indescribable: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). The word God had spoken in the Garden, promising to send a Savior who was part of mankind, came true. God himself became flesh and blood—to be born under law, to suffer, and to die that he might redeem us.

The Greek word translated "made his dwelling" can also be translated "pitched his tent." That word describes a temporary dwelling place. God came into our broken world to dwell for a time, so that one day we might go to God's perfect home and dwell for all eternity.

Unlike those Christmas Eve shepherds, we cannot see Christ with our eyes. Yet still he dwells among us. For he is the Word made flesh. As we listen to the Word today, we truly are hearing the voice of Christ. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we partake of his true body and blood. In Word and sacrament, still today, our Savior dwells among us, feeding our faith, preparing us for our true home.

**Holy Communion**

Our worship service is open to all. The forgiveness received in the Lord's Supper is proclaimed to all throughout the service. However, the Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is to be received by those who have been instructed about its meaning and the unity it expresses. *For this reason, we ask that guests speak with the Pastor before partaking of the Holy Supper.* So that you can be sure that unity of faith and teaching exists we invite you to participate in a Bible Information Class. This class will prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper with us. Please contact Pastor about class times.

**INVOCATION**

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

**CHRISTMAS LITANY**

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

*Psalm 95:1*

C: **O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.**

*Psalm 8:1*

M: Give thanks to the Lord of lords ,to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

*Psalm 136*

C: **Great is the Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.**

*Psalm 147:5*

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

*Isaiah 59:2, 9*

C: **For our offenses are many in his sight,  
and our sins testify against us.  
Our offenses are ever with us,  
and we acknowledge our sins.**

*Isaiah 59:12*

M: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.  
He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

*Psalm 103:8-10*

**C: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

*Psalm 113:3*

M: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous  
Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.  
In his day Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he  
will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

*Jeremiah 23:5, 6*

**C: Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.**

*Matthew 3:3*

M: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.  
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

*Luke 2:10, 11*

**C: Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!**

*Psalm 113:2*

M: In the peace of forgiveness let us join in singing the song of the angels:

**C: Glory be to God above! Glory to the Lord we love!  
Blessing, worship, thanks and praise Sing we now and all our days!  
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

**Lord, You take our sin away; Send Your mercy now we pray.  
Lord, You take our sin away; Listen to the prayer we say.  
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

**O Lord God, be glorified By Your Church both far and wide!  
Now we sing adoringly, Praise to You, great Trinity!  
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***HYMN: JOY TO THE WORLD***

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## FIRST READING

**ISAIAH 52:7-10**

*The prophet foretold that the Lord would dwell among us, laying bare his arm, rolling up his sleeves and doing what was necessary to bring the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion,  
“Your God reigns!”

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;  
together they shout for joy.  
When the Lord returns to Zion,  
they will see it with their own eyes.

<sup>9</sup>Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The Lord will lay bare his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see  
the salvation of our God.

## SECOND READING

## HEBREWS 1:1-9

*In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. In these latter days, God speaks to us through his Son who came to dwell among us.*

<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants flames of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions  
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

***HYMN: FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME***

***331 st. 13-15***

## GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-14

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup> There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

***HYMN: OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN***

**358**

## SERMON ON HEBREWS 1:1-9

### THE HYMN RESPONSE:

**Create my nature pure within And make my heart averse to sin;  
Let Your good Spirit not depart, Nor hide Your presence from my heart.**

**I cannot live without Your Light, Cast out and banished from Your sight;  
Your holy joys, my God, restore And guard me that I fall no more.**

**Oh, may Your love inspire my tongue! Salvation shall be all my song;  
And all my powers shall join to bless The Lord, my strength and righteousness.**

## NICENE CREED

<b>C: We believe in one God,</b>	<i>Dt. 6:4</i>
<b>the Father, the Almighty,</b>	<i>2 Cor. 6:18</i>
<b>maker of heaven and earth,</b>	<i>Is. 51:13</i>
<b>of all that is, seen and unseen.</b>	<i>Col.1:16</i>
<b>We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,</b>	<i>1 Cor. 8:6</i>
<b>the only Son of God,</b>	<i>Jn. 3:18</i>
<b>eternally begotten of the Father,</b>	<i>Heb. 1:2,5</i>
<b>God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,</b>	<i>Jn. 1</i>
<b>begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.</b>	<i>Jn. 10:30</i>
<b>Through him all things were made.</b>	<i>Jn. 1:3</i>
<b>For us and for our salvation,</b>	<i>1 Th. 5:9</i>
<b>he came down from heaven,</b>	<i>Jn. 6:38</i>
<b>was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,</b>	<i>Lk. 1:35</i>
<b>and became truly human.</b>	<i>Gal. 4:4</i>
<b>For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.</b>	<i>Mk. 15:15</i>
<b>He suffered death and was buried.</b>	<i>1 Cor. 15:3-4a</i>
<b>On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.</b>	<i>1 Cor. 15:4b</i>
<b>He ascended into heaven</b>	<i>Ac. 2:33-34</i>
<b>and is seated at the right hand of the Father.</b>	<i>Heb. 1:13</i>
<b>He will come again in glory</b>	<i>Mt. 25:31</i>
<b>to judge the living and the dead,</b>	<i>2 Tim.4:1</i>
<b>and his kingdom will have no end.</b>	<i>Lk. 1:33</i>
<b>We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,</b>	<i>Job 33:4</i>
<b>who proceeds from the Father and the Son,</b>	<i>Jn. 15:26</i>
<b>who in unity with the Father and the Son</b>	<i>Jn. 4:24</i>
<b>is worshiped and glorified,</b>	
<b>who has spoken through the prophets.</b>	<i>2 Pet.1:25</i>
<b>We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.</b>	<i>Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20</i>
<b>We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.</b>	<i>Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38</i>
<b>We look for the resurrection of the dead</b>	<i>1 Cor. 15:21-22</i>
<b>and the life of the world to come. Amen.</b>	<i>Rev. 22</i>



## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

**C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

**C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

**C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

## **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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD - *Angus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - - men.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN: I COME, O SAVIOR, TO YOUR TABLE**

**670**

## THANKSGIVING

*Stand*

### SONG OF SIMEON - *Nunc Dimittis*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### BLESSING

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

And the blessing of God Almighty — the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit — be upon you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**