

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 16, 2012
10:30 – Kids Bible Hour Service

Miracle in the Manger

*She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.
Luke 2:7*

WELCOME

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

+ PREPARATION +

PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 379 “O, Come, All Ye Faithful” (Stanzas 1, 3, 4)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels:

*Refrain O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest! *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING BIBLE READING AND PRAYER

Pastor: “I will remember your miracles of long ago.

I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.

Your ways, God, are holy.

What god is as great as our God?

You are the God who performs miracles.” (Psalm 77:11–13)

Pastor: Thank you, heavenly Father, for gathering us today. We’ve come to celebrate the miracle of your grace and love—a love so great that you sent your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior! Lead us to a sense of wonder and awe as we recall the miracles of the first Christmas, and help us want to share the good news of Christ’s birth with everyone.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

“The Miracle in the Manger”

+ Christmas Message Presented by the Children +

“**M**” The Promise of the Savior

“**I**” Mary would have a baby, God’s very own Son, Jesus!

HYMN #357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh, come, our Lord and Savior, come and stay,

Reside within our hearts on Christmas Day.

Come as the greatest miracle to be

Our Savior King! We worship thee!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

“**R**” God sent an angel to calm Joseph’s fears.

“**A**” Prophecies Fulfilled!

HYMN # 361 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Stanzas 1-3)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.

O morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth! *Continued*

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still, the dear Christ enters in.

“C” Jesus—the Savior of the world—our Savior was born on that first
Christmas morn

ANTHEM (*Kids Bible Hour*)

Little Baby Jesus, Sleeping in the hay,
You're the greatest miracle, Born on Christmas day!

HYMN # 364 **“Away in a Manger”**

(Stanza 1 is sung by Kids Bible Hour, Congregation joins in singing stanzas 2 & 3)

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

“L” The shepherds believed the angel's message...that Jesus is the
promised Savior—the Savior sent by God.

“E” The star led the Wise Men to Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus

HYMN **“Jesus Comes to Hearts Rejoicing”**

(*Sung to tune: #367 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”*)

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness, leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.

PRAYER

Pastor: Thank you, heavenly Father, for the miraculous gift of your Son, our
Savior. We praise you and rejoice in the miracles of forgiveness,
salvation, and eternal life, made possible in Jesus. Fill our hearts with
your love and power. Help us believe and share your Christmas miracles,
especially the miracle of forgiveness, with everyone we meet. We pray
in Jesus' name.

People: Amen

HYMN # 387 **“Joy to the World “ (Stanzas 1, 2 & 4)**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its 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.

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.

MESSAGE

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED (*found on back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end
of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished,
please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us come before the throne of God's grace and present our petitions with confidence in the Spirit that our heavenly Father hears us for Jesus' sake, for He is kind and full of compassion. King of Israel, you call us from lives of fear to rest in your unfailing embrace and be comforted by your jubilant song.

People: Help all your baptized people to cast off anxiety and turn to you quickly in prayer for every need, that they might know your peace.

Pastor: God of Jacob, you sent your Son into the flesh to gather your people home to you. Strengthen all pastors and servants of the Church to speak your mighty Word with clarity and passion,

People: and by your Spirit open the hearts of all who hear to trust Him who heals the sick, raises the dead and proclaims good news to the poor.

Pastor: Ruler of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that fills them, remember in kindness all those called to public service in our nation and in our communities, especially all who serve in our armed forces.

People: Give them wisdom to know what is just and courage to pursue the same, that our nation might be preserved from discord and be mightily protected against all enemies.

Pastor: O Lord, you set the prisoners free. Your Son freed the disciples of St. John the Baptist from their fears and made them witnesses to His mighty deeds by commanding them to go and tell what they had seen and heard.

People: Give to us, your people, grace in these Advent days to proclaim boldly to all the world the mighty deeds of our Savior.

Pastor: God of all compassion, you lift up those who are bowed down. Remember in your boundless love all who take treatments, the hospitalized, the lonely, the ill, the troubled, the grieving and those remembering loved ones today especially Harvey, Vince, Russ, Bob, Eleanor, Gil, Nancy, Sarah, Gerald, Joe, Janis, Phil and Jean.

People: Quiet them with your love, comfort them with your presence, let your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: Father in heaven, every good and perfect gift comes from your hand. Therefore we rejoice with Frank and Jean in praising you for your blessings in our lives.

People: Grant us all thankful hearts that, day by day, acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us.

Pastor: Faithful One, you keep your promises and you give to the hungry food. May all communicants today receive in joy and faith the gift of the Savior's body and blood that they would rejoice in the Lord always.

People: As we partake, give us the peace of sins forgiven, the joy of knowing our Savior, and the strength to live our lives according to your will and your ways.

Pastor: O Lord our God, your Son lightens the darkness of our hearts by His gracious visitation. We give you thanks for all your servants who have departed this life in His fear and friendship. We ask for comfort for Kathy's family.

People: Keep us in communion with them and strengthen in us the joyful and certain hope of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Pastor: These things and whatever else you know us to need, most Holy Father, grant us for the sake of Him who is the King of Israel, the Lord who dwells among us even as He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT +

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Since we are gathered here this day to hear God's Good News of the birth of the Savior of the world, to call on Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Only God, by choosing to send His only Son into our flesh and our world, has opened for us the way of His own love and forgiveness. In such a confession may each of us open ourselves to God's forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us . . . according to His own mercy. *Titus 3:4-5* Upon this, your

confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

HYMN # 774 “Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy”

Feed Thy children, God most holy; Comfort sinners poor and lowly.

O Thou Bread of Life from heaven, Bless the food Thou here hast given!

As these gifts the body nourish, May our souls in graces flourish

Till with saints in heav’nly splendor At Thy feast due thanks we render.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #349 “Hark the Glad Sound”

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne And every voice a song.

He comes the pris’ners to release, In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’ns eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

HYMN #343 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!

Let every hill and valley A level road appear!

Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!

God’s people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word! *continued*

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet every nation Its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!

HYMN #370 “What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look on you with favor and + give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: Amen, Amen, Amen!

CLOSING HYMN #374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Preacher

Liturgist

Acolyte

Organist

Music Coordinator

Sunday School Staff

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender, Jr.

AJ Olson

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller

Carol Percell, Diane Ross, Nancy Gottschalk,

Laurel Privatt, Linda Stanton, Pam Akey

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Advent Worship
Wednesday December 19^h
Jesus Our Peace
10:00am & 6:00pm



Our Spaghetti Dinner served at 4:45pm is a fundraiser for
St. Paul's Youth Group !!