

Christmas Vespers on
THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Thursday, December 24, 2009

4:00 pm & 6:30 pm

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

300 Broad Street, Menasha, Wisconsin

Trinity, Menasha is a fellowship of Lutheran Christians being empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God and His Sacraments to encourage, refresh, and strengthen both adults and children in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, while sharing His love with those who do not know their Savior.

*Pastor Billings, along with the Faculty, and Staff
of Trinity Lutheran Church and School of Menasha
wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!*

PRE-SERVICE Music by The Kent Franklin Family

PRELUDE **Once in Royal David's City** J. Biersch

RINGING OF BELLS – PASTORAL GREETING

HYMN **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessèd angels sing.
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

- P** The Advent season has been a time for preparation.
- C** **The preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus.**
- P** The Advent candles burn to reflect the Love of God, and His Peace,
- C** **The Joy of our salvation and the Hope we have of eternal life.**
- P** Tonight we light the CHRIST candle, representing the life of our Lord among us.
- C** **So come Lord Jesus - dwell in us this Christmas.**

Women's Ensemble **Rock the Little Baby**

OPENING VERSICLE

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P** Make hast, O God, to deliver me;
- C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever Amen.

ALL: Praise to you O Christ, King who comes to save us.

VERSICLE HYMN **Gentle Mary Laid Her Child**

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child, Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race, Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child, Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined, But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

PSALM

Psalm 110:1-4

- P** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."

~ **LEADING WORSHIP** ~

Presiding Minister- Reverend Steven S. Billings

Assisting- Michael Stapleton

**Lector- (4:00) Larry Olsen
(6:30) Karen Zachek**

**Crucifer- (4:00) Joshua Franklin
(6:30) Joshua Heid**

**Torches- (4:00) Kirstin Franklin & Erica Polar
(6:30) Carrington White & Kayla Olsen**

**Christ Candle- (4:00) Bernard Zimmerman III
(6:30) Desiree Wittmann**

**Holy Scriptures- (4:00) Joseph Groshek
(6:30) Joseph Reichert**

Organist- Nancy Lephart

Choir Director- Michael Peitsch

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

HYMN OF BLESSING

Silent Night, Holy Night

- 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.,
Glories stream from Heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night, Son of God, loves pure light.
Radiant beams from thy Holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the Communion of the + Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

W. Held

C The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

- P** Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.
- C The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,**
“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

The People That in Darkness Sat

- 1. The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.
- 2. To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness
The gath'ring nations come;
They joy as when the repeats bear
Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home,

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!” ¹³ Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF RESPONSE

The People That In Darkness Sat

- 3. To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
- 4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-16

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if

God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God!**

CHOIR SINGS

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*" which is translated, "God with us." ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

REPSONSORY FOR ADVENT

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

SERMON HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376

SERMON

"Thanks Be to God!"

2 Corinthians 9:15

CANTICLE

P Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense,

C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

CANTICLE HYMN

What Child Is This

- 1 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!
- 2 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!
- 3 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!

OFFERING

He is Born

Gallery Choir Sings

KYRIE

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

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

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your Spirit**

COLLECT FOR THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS

P O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen**