

December 25, 2022

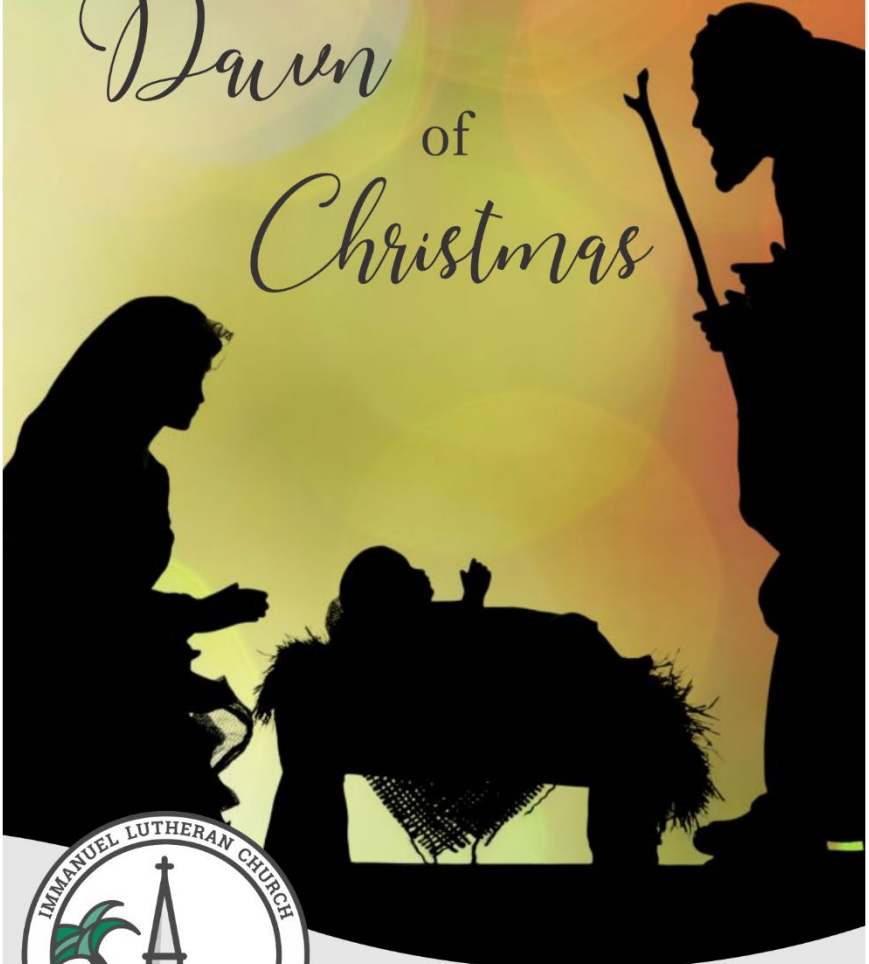
Christmas Day

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Darrin Ream

Acolyte: Grant Bernthal

Dawn of Christmas



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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 98

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. 2The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. 3He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. 4Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! 5Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! 6With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! 7Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! 8Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together 9before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Order of Divine Worship

Hymn: TLH #79

“Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn”

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

C Alleluia.

P Pastor

C Congregation

Hymn: Sung to the tune of WS #752

“Christmas Is Dawning”

**Christmas is dawning, darkness is fleeing.
New light for sinners shines upon earth.
God’s Son eternal laid in a manger
Light of the world comes in humble birth.**

**Christmas is dawning, heaven is singing.
God’s planned salvation now is fulfilled.
Born is a Savior for every sinner
Angels rejoice in what is revealed.**

**Christmas is dawning, earth greets its Maker
Shepherds will hurry to Bethlehem.
Sin’s hold on sinners soon will be broken—
Satan’s dominion brought to an end.**

Christmas is dawning, hearts are believing

as the Good News rings out with the WORD.
Glory to God—the Father, Son, Spirit!
Live in our hearts and bless us, dear Lord!

INVOCATION

P The Light of the World is born—the heaviness of sin’s darkness is lifted. Oh, come let us rejoice and be glad in our hearts for the child laid in a manger is the eternal Son of God, our Savior, and our brother. We worship in the name of the Father who sent His Son to be our Savior, in the name of the Son who willingly took on human flesh and sacrificed Himself for us, and in the name of the Holy Spirit who enlightens our hearts with the knowledge of salvation and preserves us in saving faith

G Oh, come let us rejoice and be glad.

P Lord God, cleanse our inward sight, that we may understand Your teaching, love Your truth, and be renewed in spirit. Let it be our delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass. Amen.

THE DAWN OF CHRISTMAS

The Shroud of Darkness:

Isaiah 59:1-10

P Isaiah describes the darkness of sin and unbelief.

Isaiah 59:1-10 Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. 3 For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things. 4 No one calls for justice; no one pleads a case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil. 5 They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider’s web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched. 6 Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands. 7 Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. They pursue evil schemes; acts of violence mark their ways. 8 The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks along them will know peace. 9 So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. 10 Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way

like people without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

A **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our sins and pray that You will be gracious and merciful to us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

P Jesus Christ was born to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. You are forgiven. With boldness and confidence you may approach the throne of grace to find help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness let us praise and worship the Lord!

Hymn:

“Good Christian Men Rejoice”

**Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,
Give you heed to what we say:
News! News! 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 men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,
Now you hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has ope'd the heav'nly door, and man is blessed for evermore;
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

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

The Promise of Dawn:

Genesis 3:8-15

P God first promises a Savior—the descendent of Eve who would crush

Satan's head. **Genesis 3:8-15** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Hymn: WS #711 v. 1,3

"See in Yonder Manger Low"

The Fore dawn:

Micah 5:2-5a

P Micah foretells the Savior's Birth. **Micah 5:2-5a** But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." 3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. 4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. 5 And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

Hymn: TLH #647

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

The Dawn:

Luke 2:1-20

P Luke's Account of Christ's birth. **Luke 2:1-20** And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of

the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Hymn: WS # 710 v. 1,4

"Once in Royal David's City"

Full Sun:

John 1:1-5,10-15

P John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation. **John 1:1-5,10-15** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore

witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ”

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

I. Christmas’ Dawn in Heaven

Hymn: TLH #94 V.1,3

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

II. Christmas’ Dawn on Earth

Hymn: TLH #91 V.1,4,8

“Let Earth Now Praise the Lord”

III. Christmas’ Dawn in Hearts

Hymn: TLH #89

“To Thee My Heart I Offer”

OFFERTORY

- 🎵 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING: TLH #90:3 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

C ♪ See how God, for us providing, Gave His Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding From earth’s woe to heav’nly joy.

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen.

HYMN: TLH #87

“Joy to the World”

✠ Announcements ✠

- ✠ **Dec. 25** 10:15am Christmas Day Service
- ✠ **Jan. 1** 10:15am WH Service no communion or Pastor Fossum, Education, Trustees, and Council Meetings, Painting at the parsonage
- ✠ **Jan 8** 8am Orlando Service 10:15am WH service with Pastor Fossum
- ✠ **Jan 15** 9:15am Bible Class 10:15 Communion service with Pastor Fossum Annual Voters’ Meeting after church

Last Week: WH – 32

Total Offering = \$3803.25

General = \$3403.25 | Property Improvement = \$50.00 | ILC Scholarship = \$100.00 | Revolving Fund = \$300.00

Christmas Eve: WH 102

Total Offering \$289.00

Thank You Ms. Katie and I would like to thank everyone for the Christmas gift this past Sunday. You all have been such a great blessing to each of

us, and we thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve you and teach these children the Word of God. Thanks again for your kindness.

Prayers Last weekend, Greg Tincher was admitted to Florida Hospital South in Orlando in critical condition and a breathing tube was installed. Midweek, he was taken out of ICU and the breathing tube was removed but he remains in the hospital. It has been determined Greg has been aspirating on his food and this has caused pneumonia. Additional tests are needed to determine the extent of the rehab needed for Greg to get better. Please pray for Greg and his family.

Paint Day There has been a paint day scheduled for the parsonage on January 1 after church. If you are able to come paint, it would be greatly appreciated.

Pastor Fossum Pastor Fossum will not be here for Sunday, January 1. He will be coming the week later for the January 8 service at 8am in Orlando and the Winter Haven service at 10:15am. Sunday, January 15 he will conduct Bible class at 9:15 am followed by the communion service at 10:15am. After church that Sunday there will be the Annual Voters' Meeting.

Pastor Fossum Below is Pastor Fossum's Christmas greeting to the congregation.

THANKFUL THOUGHTS AT CHRISTMAS

As we think the thoughts of Christmas –
The peace and joy that comes our way,
We travel first in heart and mind
To Savior Babe on manger hay.
There we join the pondering Mary,
Joseph and shepherds without fame:
“The Mighty One has done great things –
For US – and holy is His Name!”

But as the light of Christmas Day
Shines for all the world in ev'ry part,
We see its golden rays come forth
From each believer's happy heart.
So also you who share the Faith
In “God with us” – “Immanuel” –
Have shone that light of peace and joy
Of Gospel Truth you know so well.

I praise the LORD God this Christmas
And ask Him to bless all your days

With ev'ry good and perfect gift
As your New Year unfolds His way!

Cleaner (12/31): Galstadt | **Acolyte (1/1):** Maxwell Kuehne

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 26 – Dec. 31, '22

Mon Matthew 1:18-23 The events we celebrate at Christmas were brought about by God Himself. An angel of the Lord was sent to Joseph to guide him in carrying through on his marriage to Mary, who carries a child from the Holy Spirit (v20). The Child, Jesus, will save his people from their sins, and is indeed "God with us."

Tues 1 John 3:1-5 God the Father has shown the greatest love in sending His own Son, who appeared in order to take away sins (v5). Through God's Son we have been cleansed of our sin, and brought into God's own family as "children of God" (v1,2). As such we surely do not desire to continue in sin, acting as though we were His enemy's children.

Wed Isaiah 9:6-7 The prophet reminds us that our joy at the Savior's birth is not our doing but God's (v7). The names by which He will be called show the Savior's character and work. His wisdom and power bring us to eternal peace. The everlasting nature of His kingdom was also emphasized to Mary by the angel Gabriel (Lk1:33).

Thurs Luke 2:25-32 Simeon, a devout seeker of the "consolation of Israel," is led by the Spirit to find that consolation in the child Jesus, now forty days old. Simeon praises God for preparing salvation for all people, both Gentiles and Israel (v30-32). Truly this means "a glad new year to all the earth!" (TLH85:15).

Fri 2 Corinthians 5:1-9 On the basis of God's salvation in Christ, Simeon was ready to depart this life in peace (Lk2:29). Similarly the apostle Paul looks forward to departing this life and being at home with the Lord (v8) after the "tent" of this earthly existence is exchanged for the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (v1).

Sat Isaiah 63:7-16 The prophet, having seen God's people rebel against the tender care and steadfast Fatherly love of the LORD, calls upon God to remember His compassion of old and how in His love and in His pity He redeemed them (v9). As we stand on the threshold of another new year, we also rejoice to remember the compassion and love of "our Redeemer from of old" (v16).