

Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
Guide our feet into the way of peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and Fahlun Lutheran Church offer Holy Communion to all baptized Christians that believe that Jesus is present in the bread and the wine. If you wish to receive, please come forward as directed by the ushers. Hold out your hand to receive the bread and then choose the cup. For those interested, we offer grape juice in the center ring and gluten free wafers upon request. If you don't wish to receive communion, please keep your hands folded and the pastor will be happy to offer a blessing for you.

COMMUNION HYMN: The First Noel (Green #56)

*THANKSGIVING PRAYER:

We give you thanks, O God, that you have fed us with Christ's precious body and blood, forgiven us through this Sacrament, and given us a new beginning. Send us now into the world you love, to share Christ's sacrificial love with all we meet.
Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: Joy to the World (Green #39)

*BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

Great are the works of the Lord. Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. Go now in the name of God Most High: Father, Son, and + Holy Spirit.
(Psalm 111).

(Our Saviour's, said): Amen.

(Fahlun, sung): Amen. Amen. Amen.

Go in peace, God's Word has been fulfilled!

Thanks be to God.

BELLS/POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

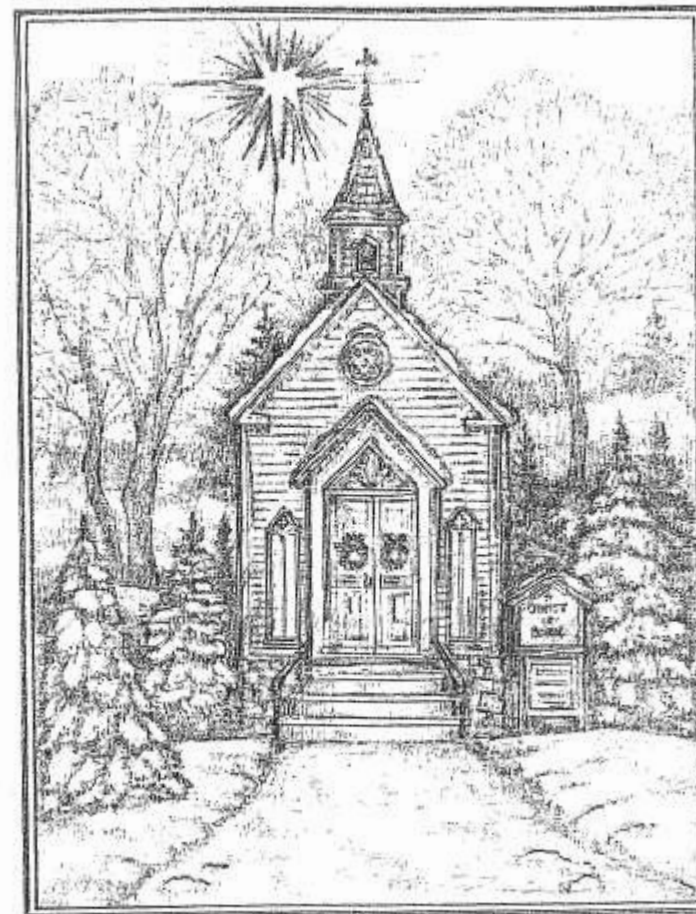
31DEC2023: 1030am: Combined Christmas Hymn Sing at Fahlun

07JAN2024: 9am worship at Our Saviour's

1030am worship at Fahlun

Leading worship: Pastor Blaine MacNeil

CHRISTMAS EVE



24 DECEMBER 2023

Our Saviour's-Fahlun Lutheran Parish—LCMC

PO Box 75, Nelson, MN 56355

Pastor Jeremy Pedersen: 320-766-7844

Parish Number: 320-200-4260

www.facebook.com/OurSavioursFahlunNelson

www.oursavioursfahlun.org

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PRELUDE/BELLS

WELCOME/ANNOUCEMENTS

*ORDER OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Jesus Christ, the Savior of the Nations, took on our human form in order to save humanity from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Let us take a few moments to examine our consciences, offering to our Lord a sincere confession of all our sins - known and unknown.

Pause for silence and reflection.

Most merciful God:

We come before you this day with contrite hearts. Forgive us, we pray, for all the ways in which we have neglected our neighbors, turned from those in need, and trusted in our own will rather than listening and obeying yours. Restore us to a right relationship with you, and give us a willingness to hear the Good News of great joy in Jesus Christ.

In the mercy of almighty God, the Dawn from on High is breaking upon you; on you who once sat in darkness a great light is shining. For you a child is born, to you the Son of God is given. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. By his blood you are forgiven and made fit for the kingdom of God.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (Green #45)

*CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,

when I will make a new covenant

with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

This new covenant was sealed at our Savior's birth.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

And a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

As Isaiah said long ago,

“For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

*Please stand (page 2)

that, seeing you in person of your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and Earth are full of your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Pastor declares the promise of Christ to the congregation, based on words found in Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into One by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

*THE LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

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Lord God of our salvation; we cry out day and night before you.
Let our prayer come before you; incline your ear to our cry.
Let us pray ...

For ears to hear and trust the Word of God...
Christ the Lord, reveal your Word among us.
For caring hearts to shelter those for whom there is no room...
Christ the Lord, show your love through us.
For the spread of joyful news that the Savior has come...
Christ the Lord, bring your joy to the world.
For peace among the nations and in our daily lives...
Christ the Lord, pour our your peace on earth.
For the promise of our Savior to shine into the darkness...
Christ the Lord, give to us your light and truth.
Trusting in your mercy and rejoicing in your birth, we lift our prayers to you,
the Light of the World.
And in your name, O Christ, we commend all for whom we pray.
Amen.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

THE OFFERING

The congregation is seated while ushers collect the offering and special music is played.

*OFFERING PRAYER

The congregation is invited to stand as able and sing:

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.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.
It is truly good, right, and salutary, that we should at all times and all places give thanks to you
O Lord, Holy Father, almighty ever-lasting God:
For in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have given us a new revelation of your glory,

*Please stand (page 6)

And his name shall be called,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.”

And the Lord said,
“Behold my servant,
whom I uphold, my chosen,
in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.”
This one whom the prophets foretold is the Messiah,
The King of kings and the Lord of lords.
It is he whom we worship;
it is he whom we adore.

*CANDLE HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High (Green #71)

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us; the love of the Father who created us in his own image; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, the giver of all good gifts, be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray together:

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray.
Through the preaching of your Holy Word,
cast out our sin and enter in.
True faith and love to us impart,
so that you and I need never part.
Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON #1

Luke 2:1-7

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were

*Please stand (page 3)

there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room at the inn.

HYMN It Came upon the Midnight Clear (Green #54)

LESSON #2 Luke 2:8-12

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ **But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.** ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Green #60)

LESSON #3 Luke 2:13-20

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ **“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, **“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”**

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN Go Tell It on the Mountain (Green #70)

LESSON #4 John 1:1-4, 9-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

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¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

HYMN Angels, from the Realm of Glory (Green #50)

CHILDREN’S SERMON

HYMN OF PREPERATION Away in a Manger (Green #67)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY What Child is This? (Green #40)

*THE APOSTLE’S CREED

Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostle’s Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

And born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day, he rose again.

He ascended into heaven

And sits at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy Christian church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Once lit, please keep candle upright to keep wax from dripping. Ushers will light from the center. During the lighting of the candles we listen, treasure, and ponder the word that we have received this wondrous night.

HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem (Green #41)

HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night! (Green #65)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

With candles still lit, we call upon God in prayer.

*Please stand (page 5)