

"Not yet"... "Now!"

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

With Christmas, timing is everything. Remember in July when Christmas seemed so distant? Did you tell yourself at Thanksgiving that there was plenty of time to get cards sent and make travel plans? A few days ago the deadline passed for mailing packages. Are yours still waiting at home? Our timing is seldom perfect. Sometimes we procrastinate and put things off until it's too late. Other times we're too impatient to wait for the right time. Whether we're ready or not, the days and weeks go by with the regularity God ordered at creation. Without fail, the "not yet" of waiting and preparation turns into "now!"

God's timing in bringing about the first Christmas could not have been better. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." God was not going to be rushed. According to His perfect order, detail by detail, prophecy by prophecy, year by year, time moved along until "not yet" became "now!"

Christmas timing is much more than getting presents under the tree and guests in the house by Dec. 25. At just the one right moment in history, God's Son was born of the virgin Mary. His birth is a miracle beyond our rational understanding. He did not come merely to live here, but to lay down His holy life as a ransom payment for the debt of sin, your sin and mine.

The "not yet" of waiting, longing, and hoping becomes the "now," as we hear the proclamation that the Child is born. All of the prophecies and promises of God found their fulfillment in this "now," as God stepped into human flesh to fulfill every one of them. And just as Jesus came in the fullness of time, so in the fullness of time yet to come, He will return to transform the present "not yet" into a glorious eternal "now."

Christmas Day

December 25, 2025

Liturgy: Song Service

Organist: Ryan Mueller



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #98:1-4

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

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

C Amen.

Christmas Responsive

P Pastor

C Congregation

P Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with Child and will give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.

C **Blessed is the day of grace, when God sent His Son.**

P Blessed is Mary, to bear such a Child. Blessed is Joseph, to care for Him on earth.

C **Blessed are we, to know Him by faith.**

P He comes to us quietly, with little fanfare.

C **He comes to us in His Word. Softly, as in a whisper, God sends salvation to this fallen world.**

P Into the quiet of the long night the Light of the world enters human life, as a spark that will engulf the world.

C **Come, Lord Jesus, and be our guest. Stay with us; live with us; be with us, forever. Amen.**

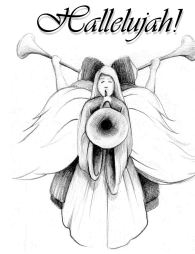
Response: TLH #98:5

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

C ♪ **Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen!



C ♪ **All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th' eternal Three in One.
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.**

P The whisper of God has become a shout!

C **Jesus, the Savior is born!**

P Praise the Lord with heart-filled joy!

C **We praise him! We bless him! Christ our newborn King!**

P He blesses you with his presence – then and now and always!

C Amen.

Hymn: TLH #94

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

✠ ✠ ✠

Welcome! We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book in the back of the church. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe and teach.

Upcoming Schedule –

Sunday, 12/28	SS & BC 9:15 am/9:30 am Communion Worship Service 10:30 am
New Year's Eve	Worship Service 7:00 pm
Sunday, 1/4	Church Officer Installation

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Choir

"Once in Royal David's City"

✠ The Lord's Prayer ✠

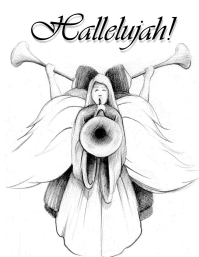
P In all things we listen for Your voice, to do Your will. Teach us so to pray:

C **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.**

Christmas Responsive

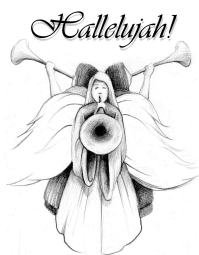
TLH #136

P Bless the Lord, for salvation has come to us in Christ, the baby of Bethlehem:



C *Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*

P Praise and glory be to Christ Jesus, who has borne the cross for us and cleansed us with his blood:



C *Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His Temple shall appear:
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*

P In the quiet agony of death, Jesus redeemed the world from sin, and gave us a grace by which to remember Him:



Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to 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, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Christmas Responsive

P A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;

C **from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.**

P The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

C **the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the lord.**

P A girl is given grace to bear a Child who is Grace.

C **We praise and bless the Lord!**

P Our God calls us to himself, with the voice of a Child.

C **He calls us to believe, and not to be afraid.**

P As Mary answered the angel, so we too reply:

C **"I am the Lord's Servant. May it be to me as you have said."**

Hymn: TLH #102

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"



Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear

not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of



David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among those with whom he is pleased!"

Hymn: LSB #368

"Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn: TLH #87

"Joy to the World"

✠ A Christmas Homily ✠

Response

WS #712:1,3

**☞ ♪ 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!**

**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!**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠