

## *The Divine Service*

# CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

## Joseph had everything set (But God had something else in mind)

### *GOD SENDS AN ANGEL TO PREPARE JOSEPH*

#### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

##### *Invocation*

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

##### *Opening Prayer*

L: Gracious God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, deliver us, we pray, from the easy habit of resisting the changes that you bring into our lives. It is so difficult to accept the idea that our thoughts and plans often limit what you have in mind. Open our hearts and spirits to your plans for our lives. Help us to commit all of our conversations and relationships with others to you, that we may continuously reflect your light into the lives of others, and that they might say with us,

C: **We are servants of the Lord; let it be to us according to your word. Amen.**

##### *Call to Worship*

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

LSB 338

##### *Savior of the Nations Come – TO JOSEPH*

L: Centuries ago there was a man named Joseph living in the small town of Nazareth. He was engaged to a young maid named Mary. Wedding plans were underway – and the entire village was getting excited. However, things changed, when, before they came together, Mary was found to be with child – and Joseph was not the father.

C: **Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.**

L: But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying:

C: **“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,**

L: When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.

C: **All of this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” – which means, God with us.**

L: We can only imagine what went through Joseph’s mind – and all of the different emotions he felt – as he went from anticipation to disappointment, and from disappointment to doing what the angel had commanded him in that dream.

C: **By the power of the Holy Spirit, both Joseph and Mary listened to what God’s messengers had to say. And, in listening, they and their lives were changed.**

L: Joseph had everything for his life lined up – he had everything planned and set,

C: **But God had something bigger in mind.**

*(pause to reflect)*

##### *Prayer of Preparation*

L: Lord Jesus, we spend much time and energy, as you have instructed us, in planning and preparing for the future.

C: **We plan family events and celebrations. We prepare menus and guest lists. We like to think that we have everything set.**

L: But you always have something bigger in mind for us – opportunities you place before us that bring blessings to those around and hope to those who have no hope.

C: **Prepare our hearts this day – through your Word and Spirit – to welcome your bigger plan for us.**

L: As we make plans to celebrate your birth, keep reminding us that, though we plan our ways in our hearts, you are the one who establishes our steps.

C: **And that you have made us all to be part of your bigger plan. In your name we pray. Amen.**

##### *The Peace*

##### *Anthem*

*“Christmas Is Coming”*

J. Raney

##### *Scripture Reading*

**2 Samuel 7:1-16**

*“The Lord Himself will make you a house.”*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of

cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup>but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Introit** *"Gloria"* [WOV 640]

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia! *(repeat three times)*

Text: Traditional, Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994, © 1979, 1988 Les Presses de Taize, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

**The Rest of the Story:** **Matthew 24:4-14, 30-31, 34-35**

*Of His kingdom and of His peace there will be no end.*

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup>And you will hear of wars and

rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup>All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup>"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. <sup>10</sup>And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup>And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup>And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup>But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup>And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." ...

<sup>30</sup>"Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup>And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." ...

<sup>34</sup>"Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>35</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

**Children's Sermon** *(please record your attendance)*

*Please list each attendee separate and check if participating in communion.*

*Visitors please fill out top portion with your address etc.*

*After the attendance is recorded for your pew, please tear off sheet and place in folder slightly higher for ease of collection. Thank you!*

**Hymn of the Day** *"Once He Came in Blessing"* LSB 333

**Sermon** *"David, Samuel & Our Goliath God"* **2 Samuel 7/Matthew 1**

**The Apostles Creed** LSB inside back cover

**Meditation and Prayer** The Great "O" Antiphons

L: O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

C: **Come quickly to deliver us.**

L: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open:

C: **Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.**

*(after each petition)*

L: Lord in your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

C: **Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. In your name we pray. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Offering**

**God expects us to provide for our families.**

*“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Timothy 5:8)*

**Offertory**

*“Surely It Is God Who Saves Me”*

[WOV 635, v 1]

Surely it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.  
For the Lord defends and shield me and his saving help is near.  
So rejoice as you draw water from salvation’s healing spring;  
in the day of your deliv’rance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., © 1982, 1990 Hope Publishing Co.

**Preparation for the Sacrament**

L: If the Lord our God kept a record of sins, who could stand before him?

C: **But with Him there is forgiveness, therefore He is feared.**

L: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Live in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.:

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

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

L: God has heard our cry. Immanuel is come. He has defeated our enemies, atoned for our sins, and authorized me to proclaim this good news to you: Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

L: Assembled with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

C: **(sung) My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep [LSB 358] I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

**Glory to God in highest heav’n, Who unto us His Son has giv’n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

LSB back cover

**Words of Institution**

**The Distribution of the Sacrament - Continuous Line**

*“As we receive the True Body and Blood of our Lord, our faith is fed, our spirits are encouraged, and we are moved to share God’s grace with the world.”*

*[Because of the closeness of this sharing (and the concerns expressed in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29) we ask that those who have not been taught the faith at STL speak with a pastor or elder before communing.]*

**A request of those who wish to commune:**

*All who are baptized and believe that in Communion we receive the true body and blood of Jesus, under the form of bread and wine, are invited to the Lord’s Table. All others are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*Alcohol-free wine is available in the center of each individual cup tray. Gluten-free host is available upon request from the host server. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of our staff.*

**Entrance Hymn**

*“Welcome to Earth”*

[LSB 358]

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

**Hymns during Distribution**

*“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”* LSB 353

*“What Hope! An Eden Propheesied”* LSB 342

**Post-Communion Canticle** *“Surely It Is God Who Saves Me”* [WOV 635, v 2]

Make God’s deeds known to the peoples; tell out his exalted name.  
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works God’s might proclaim.  
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,  
in your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Dismissal and Sending Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Sending Hymn** *“Hark the Glad Sound”* LSB 349

*You are now entering  
the (your)  
Mission Field*

*“The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.  
Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send YOU out into his harvest.”  
(Matthew 9:37-38)*

**NEXT SUNDAY**

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent*

December 22, 2019

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-5a / Luke 2:1-6 / Matthew 1:22

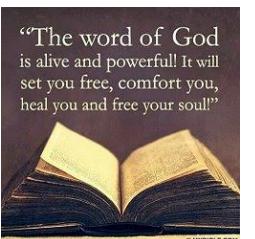
Sermon Topic: *“Things are NOT as They Appear to Be”* - Text: Micah 5:2

**2020 Envelopes are available in the west hallway!** Please stop by the table, print your name on the list next to the envelope # you are taking home. Information for electronic giving is also available. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office. **Please, do not use these envelopes until 2020!**



**On-line Giving** - Did you forget your mission support envelope/offering? You can scan this Quick Response (QR) code, with a QR decoder on your smart phone, it will take you to our on-line giving form, where you can have your mission support offering automatically taken from your checking account, or use your credit or debit card. You can also set up recurring giving! Visit our web page for more on-line giving options.

**New T – 1 K** We have free New Testaments, free reading guides, and more. Our intent is to do more than just give away free Bibles, we wish to actually help people to read and understand the books we distribute. We currently have given out over 600 bibles, with most of them registered NT readers. We encourage you to a) keep inviting people to read with us, and b) encouraging people to invite others. If you are interested, or would like more information, you can either, get information in the back of the church or contact the office.



**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:** The church office will be closed December 24 through January 5, except for scheduled activities and special requests. Staff will be in the building as needed, making sure that all the work gets done, and that all voicemails are handled. If you have a need to be in the building during these two weeks – outside of worship – please be sure to make appropriate arrangements beforehand.

## *Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another Educating Minds – Growing Faith – Serving People*

**We are glad you are here.** When you come to worship at STL, you are among friends and family. If you are curious to learn more out ministry in the community, go to [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org), or like us on Face Book. To get your questions answered in a more personal way, contact the church office (586-772-3370) and ask for a pastor to give you a call (or just check the box in the Record of Fellowship folder).

### *Our Confession of Faith*

As members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LC-MS), we subscribe to the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian) and the Christian faith as confessed in the Book of Concord. This includes believing that:

- Jesus Christ is both true God and true man who died for our sins and rose again to save us.
- His body/blood are truly present in communion under the form of bread/wine (see page 326).
- Communion is, among other things, an expression of doctrinal unity.
- Infant baptism is a Means of Grace through which God delivers one from sin and gives eternal salvation to all who believe (page 325 in Lutheran Service Book).

### *Serving in God's House*

**Preacher:** Rev. Mark W. Hetzner  
**Organist:** Lori Stolzenfeld  
**Sanctuary Team:** Chris deRuiter  
**Servers:** Roy Michelsen, Glenn Koeplin, Mark Bucholtz, Richard Cain  
**Greeters:** Ron Hess, Thomas Johnson  
**Altar Guild:** Dana Haenke-Adam & Randa Haenke-Swanboro

**Liturgist:** Rev. Rick VanBriggle  
**Music:** Celebration Singers  
**Readers:** Diane Carr, Roy Michelsen

*Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.  
Third Sunday of the month at Noon  
Monday at 7:30 p.m.*

*Faith Hope Love Ministries throughout the week  
Cross†raining for children Sunday at 10:45 a.m.*

Copyright Permission CCLI License #1438022 - Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

**Watch services on Facebook – videotaping in progress during service**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

December 15, 2019

**Our Primary Prayer focus this week is on preparing for Christ's coming:**

- That children of in our congregation and community know the story.
- That STL would share the Good News winsomely.
- That we would hear his Word of peace and hope.
- That the glory of Christ might shine through the darkness of sin.

**And we remember those who protect and nurture life on this earth**, this week remembering all military families, emergency responders, and hospital and hospice care workers.

**To connect to the STL PRAYER CHAIN, contact Karen Dolan ([mdolan421@gmail.com](mailto:mdolan421@gmail.com))**

### † In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Adam Vincent, Elise Dawada (daughter of Tom & Shannon) , Elsie Adams, Sherry Kourlos, Renee Thelen, Carol Ferdinande, Alan Borowiak, Diane Ustick, Brenda Finger, Judi Todt (mother of Vicki Berkseth), Don Berkseth (father of Scott), Richard (brother-in-law of Roblyn Smith), Alice Schmidt (mother of Lori Stolzenfeld), Scott Spencer (friend of Cardamones), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamones), Kimberly Ross (mother of Dayna), John Belvedere (son-in-law of Caroline Henze), Anthony Giacalone (son of friend of Deb Kujawski), Kari Inglesoll (niece of Diane Carr), Paul Odendahl (brother-in-law of Eleanor Cardamone), Rose Collins (cousin of Deb Kujawski).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Sieg Gannon, Chris Huber, Cristal Morris (former preschool aide), John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Bob LaRoche and Jan Adams (family of Elsie Adams), Alyssa Delano (granddaughter of Theresa Delano), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Denise Godfrey (sister of Deborah Kujawski), Kathy Johnson (friend of Vicki Leberg), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Shirley Grassa (aunt of Deborah Kujawski), Mark Loechle (son of Pat), Elaine Dixon (friend of Linda Taggart), Luella Riske (granddaughter of Jim, Thrivent Rep.).

### STL Compassion Fund

The STL Compassion (Almoners/Mercy) Fund has been established to offer support for households of the STL family during times of emergency. A special line in the restricted account keeps the funds received for those times of need. When requests come in from the STL family, they are then processed by the pastors and the Board of Elders. As God's people in Christ Jesus, we continue the practice described in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4: ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”***

**Upcoming Events:**



(visit the web page or see the STL publication for more information)



**Christmas Eve**

**“Carols, Candles, and Communion”**

4:00 p.m. - Festival Service

11:00 p.m. - "Unplugged" Service

**Christmas Morning Communion @ 9:30 a.m.**

“Includes a special message for the children”

New Year’s Eve Worship – 5:00 p.m.

Coming in 2020

Un-decorate the church

January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9 a.m.

Welcome “2020” Open House - January 12<sup>th</sup>

FPU – beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>

(Financial Peace University)

Go to <https://www.fpu.com/1107890> to register.

Watch for more information or call the church office.



THIRD SUNDAY

OF

Advent

*December 15, 2019*

*Saint Thomas Lutheran*

23801 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, Michigan 48021 - 586-772-3370

[www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org)

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Specific Ministry Pastor

Deacon Don Cooley