

DECEMBER 24, 2021



Celebrate God's love. Merry Christmas!

**Saint John's
Lutheran
Church**
Spinnerstown



1565 Sleepy Hollow Road | P.O. Box 120
Spinnerstown, PA 18968
215) 536-0734
Email: stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com

Please visit our web site—
www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPINNERSTOWN, PA
CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2021

Prelude: *"Angels, Peasants and Shepherds"*

D. Paxton

+ P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the LORD.

C: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

+ Opening Hymn: *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

#283

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2. The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! [R]

+ P: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

C: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David.

P: As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

C: That we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

P: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

C: The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us,

P: That we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

C: In holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

P: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the lord to prepare his ways,

C: To give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

P: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

C: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

+ Hymn of Praise: “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*”

#270

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

+ Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: A reading from Isaiah 9:2-7.

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah’s king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God’s passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

Isaiah writes: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Bell Choir: “*Away in a Manger*” (8:00 p.m.)

arr. F. L. Callahan

Second Lesson: A reading from Titus 2:11-14.

The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior’s final appearance.

St. Paul writes: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

+ Gospel Acclamation: “*Go Tell It on the Mountain*”

#290

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [R]

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter, verses 1-20.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken

place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Kaegler

+ Hymn: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

#279

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

+ **The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Special Music:

Solo (2 p.m.): *"Come to the Stable with Jesus"* D.S. Twohig/G. O'Hara

Darcy McConahy

Adult Choir (4 p.m.): *"Sing Noel"* N. Sleeth

Bell Choir (8 p.m.): *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* arr. M. L. Thompson

+ The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

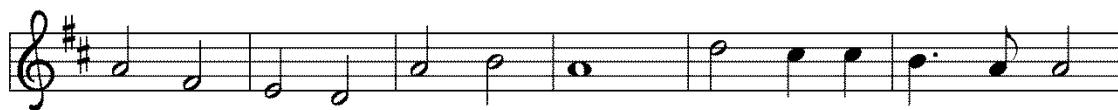
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

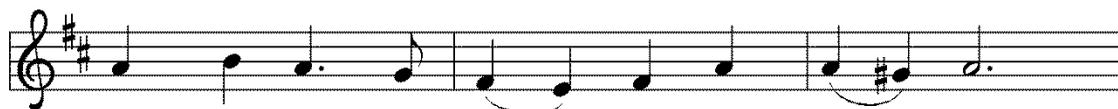
C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, Almighty and Merciful God. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the chorus of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

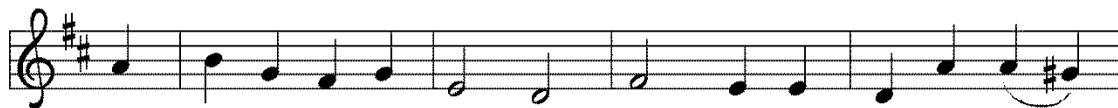
+ Holy, holy, holy



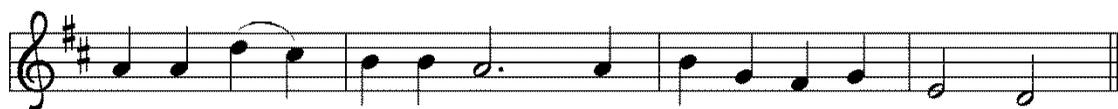
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ Words of Institution

+ The Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words that our Savior gave us:

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, and trusting God for the forgiveness, grace, and strength that we need, we are invited to God's meal. And so as shepherds, magi, and angels once gathered around the manger, you too are invited to come to our Lord's Supper and share in this gift and mystery of the faith. This is the meal of the baptized. You do not need to be a Lutheran to be welcome for the meal; the incarnation is far bigger than that. You do not need to be a "perfect" person to be worthy. Believe that Christ's incarnation is for you, that your sins are forgiven, and that you are called to be part of God's love in this world - to be part of the Body of Christ.

We will be doing continuous communion this Christmas Eve. The ushers will guide you, row by row, up the center aisle. When when you approach the front of the line, please pick up a communion glass. There are pre-filled ones that have grape juice, and empty ones which will be filled with wine. After you pick up your glass, step forward to receive the bread, the Body of Christ from the Pastor, and then step to your left or right to receive the wine, the Blood of Christ, from the communion assistant. If you are uncomfortable with receiving Holy Communion, but still want to be part of the community, simply cross your arms over your shoulders in an X, and receive a blessing from the Pastor.

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light had shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Hymn: *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

#281

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,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

SENDING

Blessing

P: The Lord bless and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(extinguish candles)

+ Sending Song: “*Joy to the World*”

#267

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king; let ev’ry heart prepare him room
and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

+ Dismissal

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: Peace to God’s people on earth!

P. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “*Toccata and Fantasy on Two French Carols*”

arr. R. Hudson

+ *Please stand if you are able.*

The Staff of St. John’s

Rev. Axel T. Kaegler

Pastor

Carol Dzurenda

Organist

Darcy McConahy

Choir Director

Becky Hinderliter

Christian Education Director

Joseph Brooke & Laurie Stoneback

Sextons

Jen Bara

Secretary

***The Mission of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Spinnerstown
is to Grow in Faith and Spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.***

Serving in Worship this evening

Connie Schwartz & Linda Vey

Altar Guild

2:00 p.m. Service

Stephen Spry

Usher Captain

Kiera McComsey

Acolyte

Jill McComsey & Richard Kelly

Greeters

TBD

Ushers

Stephen Spry

Lector

Randy Felten & Kathie Sensinger

Communion Assistants

4:00 p.m. Service

Kathie Afflerbach

Usher Captain

TBD

Acolyte

George & Peggy Hudock

Greeters

TBD

Ushers

Kathie Afflerbach

Lector

Kathie Afflerbach & Peggy Hudock

Communion Assistants

8:00 p.m. Service

Stephen Spry

Usher Captain

Blake Hinderliter

Acolyte

TBD

Greeters

Joe & Karen Hinderliter

Ushers

Brad Hinderliter

Lector

Brad & Becky Hinderliter

Communion Assistants

**The Bulletins tonight have been sponsored by
Pat & George Zielinski in memory of loved ones**

Poinsettia Sponsors

A friend in memory of Howie Landis

Donna Angstadt (3) - Blessings of Christmas

Guy & Ruth Ann Barndt in memory of Bill & Dolores Amey

Guy & Ruth Ann Barndt in honor of Douglas, Eli, Foster, Harbert, and all those serving

Bob & Myrtle Boardman in memory of loved ones

Troy, Kristi & Hunter Bochniak in memory of loved ones

Ken & Carol Butz in memory of Chester Westgate

Ken & Carol Butz in memory of Oscar & Mary Butz

Karoline Doerr (2) in memory of Erna & Dave Doerr

Beverly Downs in loving memory of Charles & Dolores Macek

Otto & Cathy Fried in honor of family

Otto & Cathy Fried in memory of loved ones

Chester & Marsha Hartley (3) in memory of loved ones

Kim Howatt (4) in memory of our loved ones

George & Peggy Hudock in memory of loved ones

Pastors Axel & Karen in hope for the new year

Karen & Gerry Landes (3) in memory of the Siringhaus & Landes Families

Sara Landis & family in loving memory of Howie Landis

Ron & Brenda Lausch in memory of Doug Thorsen

Ron & Brenda Lausch in honor of Loretta Thorsen

Rob, Kelly, Jensen & Brannon McCartney – He Is Born!

The McComsey Family (4) in memory of Kathy Kelly

Darcy, Wayne & Rob McConahy – Alleluia!

Judith O'Donnell (2) in memory of my parents Marion & Charles Overly
Reinhold & Gerda Schottle in memory of loved ones

The Spry Family (4) to the Glory of God!

Laurie Stoneback (3) to celebrate Christ's birth

Fern Strunk (2) in memory of Linnea Merembeck & Roberta Strunk

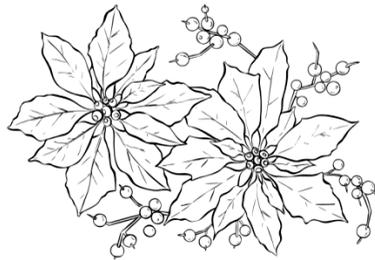
Loretta Thorsen in memory of Doug & Andrea

Linda Vey in memory of my parents

Marilyn & Stan Weikel (2) in memory of parents

Mildred Westgate in loving memory of Chester Westgate

Earl White in memory of my family



*May the light of the newborn Christ shine in your hearts
and lives this night and always.
Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!*

