

December 24, 2022



Jesus is The Good Shepherd



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
(248) 677-7242

mtzionlutheran.info

Christmas Eve 2022

Tonight's Theme:

Rejoice! The Good Shepherd has Come!

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful"

*1. Oh, come all ye faithful, triumphantly sing;
Come, see in the manger our Savior and King!*

To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come let us adore Him,

Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2. True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;

To be born of a virgin He doth not despise.

To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,

Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!



The Invocation and Opening Response

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

C Amen!

P When the time was fully come, God sent forth his Son.

C Jesus was born to be our Redeemer.

P The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

C We have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

P No one has ever seen God

C But we have seen Jesus, full of grace and truth.

P He is the very image of God

C All the fullness of God dwells in Him bodily.

P You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

C Let us go and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has revealed to us.

The Pastor's Message: *John 10:14*

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd."

Congregational Hymn: "*Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*"

- 1. Jesus, shepherd of the sheep, Who Your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we Wake and safe We sleep, Guarded still by You.*
- 2. In Your promise firm We stand; None can take us from Your hand.
Speak! We hear! At Your command, We will follow You.*
- 3. By Your blood our souls were bought; By Your life salvation wrought;
By Your light our feet are taught, Lord, to follow You.*
- 4. Father, draw us to Your Son; We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done, There to live with You.*
- 5. We, in robes of glory dressed, Join th' assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest In the fold with You.*

Rejoice! The Good Shepherd has Come!

I. He comes as Foretold

P Rejoice! The Good Shepherd has come! From the time that the first humans sinned against God, God foretold that a Savior would come. He promised that this Savior would come as the Good Shepherd. Listen now to a few of the promises which God gave through the Old Testament prophets:

Men: I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. (Ezek. 34:15-16)

Women: I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. (Ezek. 34:23)

P Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Isa. 40:10)

Congregational Hymn: “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

- 1. Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred,
But there is room and welcome there for me. (2x)*
- 3. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me. (2x)*
- 4. Can I, will I forget how love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me? (2x)*

Rejoice! The Good Shepherd has Come!

II. He Comes to Save the Straying Sheep

P Rejoice! The Good Shepherd has come! God had a reason why He foretold that the Good Shepherd would come. All of us human beings are sinful. We are all like lost and straying sheep. So we needed someone to rescue us from our sin. Jesus did this for us by offering Himself as the Lamb of God. He came to take away the sins of the world. This is how the Lamb of God became the Shepherd of our souls.

Men: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)

Women: Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever. (Psa. 28:9)

P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel... stir up your might and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved! (Psa. 80:1-3)

Men: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (Isa. 53:4-5)

Women: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he

opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. (Isa. 53:6-7)

- P** Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Pet. 2:24-25)

Hymn: “God Loves Me Dearly”

Children sing verses 1-2, Congregation joins in for verses 3-4

Children: 1. *God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.*

[Refrain]: *Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.*

2. *I was in bondage, Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working To make me free...Refrain...*

Cong: 3. *He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus And set me free...Refrain...*

4. *Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed...Refrain...*



Rejoice! The Good Shepherd has Come!

III. He Comes to be Born

- P** Rejoice! The Good Shepherd has come! It was not enough for the Good Shepherd to be among us, He also had to be one of us. As true man, He would live a perfect life in fulfillment of every commandment of the Law. As true God, He would die an innocent death as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Thus He made divine peace through His sinless human blood.

Ezekiel: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isa. 7:14)*

Aurora: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isa. 9:6)*

The Reading of Luke 2:1-20 (NKJV)

P And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Men: 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,

Women: To be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 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.

P Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Men and Women: 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. "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

Ezekiel, Aurora, and Jed:

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

P 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." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

C Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Children's Hymn: "Go Tell It on The Mountain"

*Refrain: Go! tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry-where;
Go! tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!*

*1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold through-out the heavens There shone a holy light. (Refrain)*

*2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)*

*3. Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)*

Rejoice! The Good Shepherd has Come!

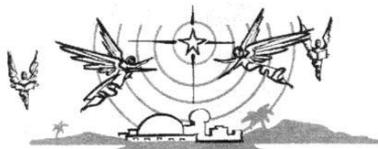
IV. He Comes to You

P Rejoice! The Good Shepherd has come! And He still comes as your Shepherd today! He comes to you in His Word and Sacraments. He comes to you as King of your heart and leader of your life. He will come again to give you eternal life forever with Himself.

Men: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28)

Women: When the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (1 Pet. 5:4)

Men and Women: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalm 23)



Congregational Hymn: “Joy to the World!”

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart -- Prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing. (3x)

2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy (3x)

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of -- His righteousness, And wonders of His love. (3x)

The Offering of Thankful Hearts

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. If you wish to give your church offering electronically, you can do so by using the CashApp on your mobile device. The church's \$cashtag is “\$clcmztion”.

Prayer of the Church – The Lord’s Prayer

The Pastor’s Benediction

Closing Hymn: “Silent Night” *(Sung a cappella and by candlelight)*

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 Heavenly 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 Thy holy face With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Welcome!

Especially to our guests and visitors. And thank you, thank you to our dear children for assisting in our worship tonight! It is our prayer that the Christmas message will work in our worshipers’ hearts God’s gift of faith that trusts in His greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ, His Son and our Savior. Please join us for our Christmas Day service tomorrow at 10:00am!