



# The Nativity of Our Lord

A Children's Service of Lessons & Carols

**December 24, 2023**

**4:00 pm**

St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1120 Spa Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21403  
Phone: 410-263-4723 • Website: [StMartinsAnnapolis.org](http://StMartinsAnnapolis.org) • E-mail: [Church@StMartinsOnline.org](mailto:Church@StMartinsOnline.org)  
Reverend Dr. David G. Oravec, Pastor

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Opening Hymn

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

*Please stand as you are able.*

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. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain*

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

## Greeting

*Pastor* Christ is born!

*Congregation* Alleluia, alleluia!

*Pastor* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Congregation* **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

*Pastor* Let us pray together.

*All* 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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*The people may be seated.*

## Reading

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

Isaiah 9:2-7

## Reading

*Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Luke 2:1-7

**Hymn****O Little Town of Bethlehem****ELW 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.

**Hymn****Away in a Manger****ELW 277**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay;  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**Reading***The shepherds go to the manger.***Luke 2:8-20****Hymn****Angels We Have Heard on High****ELW 289***(Congregation Rings Bells During the 'Gloria in Excelsis Refrain')*

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Reading***The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.***Matthew 2:1-12****Hymn****We Three Kings of Orient Are****WOV 646**

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

**Hymn of the Day****Hark! The Herald Angel's Sing****ELW 270**

*Please stand as you are able.*

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!"
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

*The people may be seated.*

**Children's Message**

*Pastor Dave*

**Offertory Anthem**

**The Offering**

**Offertory Response**

**What Child Is This**

**ELW 296**

*Please stand as you are able.*

3. 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!

**Offering Prayer**

*Assisting Minister*

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Prayers**

**The Words of Institution**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*(Said by all, in unison)*

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.

**Communion** (*we will communion by intinction so as you come forward, you will receive the wafer and may then dip it into the cup. All cups have grape juice. Children who have not communed should come forward for a blessing*)

### Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **AMEN.**

*(As we sing Silent Night, we invite everyone to snap/activate their glow sticks. We will raise them when we sing "sleep in heavenly peace".)*

### Hymn

### Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

*Please stand as you are able.*

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.

### Litany of Blessing

*Pastor* May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.  
*People* **Amen.**  
*Pastor* May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.  
*People* **Amen.**  
*Pastor* May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.  
*People* **Amen.**  
*Pastor* And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  
*People* **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

### Joy to the World

ELW 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.
3. **No more let sin and sorrow grow**  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## Dismissal

*Assisting Minister*

*Asst. Minister*  
*People*

Go in peace. Share the good news!  
Thanks be to God!

## Postlude

# St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

1120 Spa Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21403

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Reverend Dr. David G. Oravec, Pastor

Paula Thistle, Chaplain

Junghoon Park, Director of Music Ministry

Laura Albanese, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Linda Wetz, Director of Facilities & Administration

Christine Sindt, Administrative Assistant

## Serving in Worship

**Ushers:** Lillian Albanese, Max Albanese, Gretchen Lebo, Emily Spain

**Assisting Minister:** Tori Johnson

**Communion Assistants:** Ari Garcia, Elliott Spain

**Director of Music Ministry:** Junghoon Park

**Preacher and Celebrant:** Reverend Dr. David G. Oravec

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# Merry Christmas and Welcome to St. Martin's!

We hope you'll let us know that you were here by filling out one of the blue information pew cards and handing it to an usher. If you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, we'll be happy to help. If you're interested in joining the church (or just learning more about the Christian faith) please contact Pastor Dave at [chapsdo@gmail.com](mailto:chapsdo@gmail.com) or call him at the church office at 410-263-4723, ext. 1112.

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EXTRA special thanks to Cathy Jones for creating today's awesome costume!

For all who are receiving 2024 offering envelopes, we hope you'll pick yours up today as you leave the church. They're on a table in the narthex. Thanks!

In case you didn't know, St. Martin's has a wonderful day school (pre-K 3 through 8th grade and after school care is available). If you're interested in blessing your child with a stellar education in a loving Christian atmosphere, please contact the school office at 410-269-1955.



## Christmas Flower Dedications

<p>In thanksgiving for the wonderful people of St. Martin's <i>Pastor Dave and Sandy</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To: Jackie with love <i>Bob</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In loving memory of Rick, Carly and Meredith Ruhf <i>Rosa and Davis Rulff</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>For wonderful memories of husband and father Karl <i>Peg Kamp</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>To the glory of God for the blessings of family and our dear friends at St. Martin's <i>Gene and Anna Marie Humphrey</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>Merry Christmas Moms and Dads <i>Alton and Doreen Chavis</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>Love to family and friends past and present <i>Anthony and Carolyn Anzalone</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>To our parents and grandparents <i>The Raabe Family</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>To the glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Barnard Doyle <i>Jane and Tim Doyle</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>A gift for others in loving memory of my daughter, Deborah <i>Ray Blanset</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In loving memory of Bill Glaser, Tom Hardman and Bob Downey <i>Janet Downey</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory of Doug Stazer <i>Linda Stazer</i></p>	<p>A gift in loving memory of my wife, Betty Blanset <i>Ray Blanset</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory of our dear mothers who loved Christmas, Margaret Dakin &amp; Anne Campbell <i>Carol Campbell</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>Dedicated in memory of Marianne Drumm <i>Nicki and Dave Parrish</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory of Betty Liller and Marianne Drumm, two amazing women who are dearly missed <i>Mary Rosekrans</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>To honor Marianne Drumm <i>Bob Drumm</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory of our loved ones <i>Ion Azzola</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory of The Kessler Family <i>Carole and David Ehemann</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory of The Ehemann Family <i>Carole and David Ehemann</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In loving honor of Julie, Mary, Hannah, and Ben <i>Kim Rosekrans</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory of our (grand)parents, Jim Spain and Marcia Lovejoy <i>Brad, Kathleen, Tyler, Elliott &amp; Emily</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory of Arthur K. Lohsen, loving husband <i>JoAnn Lohsen</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory of Paul Gunther, loving husband <i>Claudia Gunther</i></p>	<p>To the glory of God in memory of Daniel C. Tidcomb <i>Dean and Andrea Titcomb</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In lieu of cards to our St. Marin's friends, a blessed Christmas! <i>Sandy and Phil Ourisson</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>With thanks to God for endless blessings, and in loving memory of Mick Thistle <i>Paula Thistle</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>Joy to the World! <i>Dave and Patsy Mattingley</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In loving memory of Shirley Ann Bachmann <i>Jay and Mary Simmons &amp; Family</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In loving memory of George and Anna Bachmann <i>Jay and Mary Simmons &amp; Family</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In memory/honor of our parents <i>Wendy Whitney</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>To the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Ted and Marie Freeman and Howard and Joyce French <i>Tom and Barb Freeman</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>To Paul and Pat Tomiczek, Ron Fiehrer, and Mark Johnson, making Christmas brighter from heaven <i>The Johnsons</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In loving memory of our parents, Rosa &amp; Paul Davis and Charlotte &amp; Charles Day <i>Louisa and Larry Day</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>In loving memory of our granddaughters, Carly Elizabeth &amp; Meredith Louise and their father, Richard (Rick) Ruhf <i>Louisa and Larry Day</i></p>
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