

Christmas Day

December 25th, 2024

9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship



Atonement Lutheran Church

Invite • Prepare • Go into the World

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618

GATHERING

PRELUDE

What Child Is This

WELCOME

Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.
Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be filled with joy, and our spirits filled with peace.

Come! Listen to the voices of angels announcing Good News to all people.
Hearing this marvelous song; may we sing: Glory to God in the highest.

Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart as a gift.
Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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***GREETING AND PEACE**

May the good news of great joy, grace, and peace be with you.
And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

** Please Stand As You Are Able*

CHRISTMAS READINGS AND REFLECTIONS from Martin Luther

*These reflections are drawn from Martin Luther's Christmas Book,
translated and edited by Roland H. Bainton*

FIRST READING *Luke 2:1-7*

A reading from Luke

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE BIRTH OF JESUS

HYMN

Away in a Manger

#278

SECOND READING *Luke 2:8-16*

A reading from Luke

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

LUTHER'S REFLECTION ON THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

#276

THIRD READING *Matthew 2:1-12*

A reading from Matthew

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

LUTHER'S REFLECTION ON HEROD AND THE WISE MEN

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#279

***FOURTH READING** *John 1:1-5, 14-18*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

LUTHER'S REFLECTION ON THE WORD MADE FLESH

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

All My Heart Again Rejoices

#273

***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the church, with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS

As we rejoice in Jesus, God's Word become flesh, let us pray for the church, the world and all God's people. God of Love; **Shine upon us, and give us your peace.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Christ, who is our glorious light. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Un flambeau

-F. Seguin

*Offering gifts can also be gratefully received
in the plates located near the sanctuary doors as you exit.*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love, inspire us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

MEAL

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

DISTRIBUTION

All are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion; Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.

~Come forward by the center aisle.

~Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.

~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.

~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.

~Please tell an usher if you need communion elements brought to your pew.

SENDING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

May the song of the angels,
the joy of the shepherds,
and the peace of the Christ Child+
be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, to share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

-L. Redner

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister	Joanne Scanlon
Livestream Recorder.....	Dave Irish
Altar Care	Judy Lazenby

The Poinsettias Decorating the Sanctuary
Are Given By:



Phyllis Fleming... in memory of Laura & Fran Fleming

Norm & Judy Karsten... in honor of their children and grandchildren

Jean Seager... in memory of the Zimmer Family and the Seager Family

Pastor Gail and Pastor Craig Swanson... in honor of their congregations

Judy Lazenby... in memory of Gary... in honor of Jack, Aidan, Melinda, Olivia, Hudson, and Graham

Betty Middlebrook... in memory of George Middlebrook ... in honor of Nancy and George

Lin and John Macholz... in honor of Barb and Zach and their grandchildren

Dick Browne... in memory of his wife, Betty, and his brother, Peter Browne

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

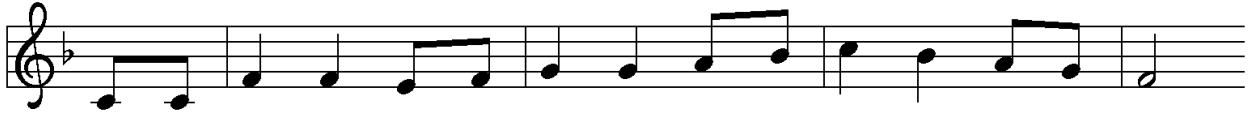


the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

All My Heart Again Rejoices



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

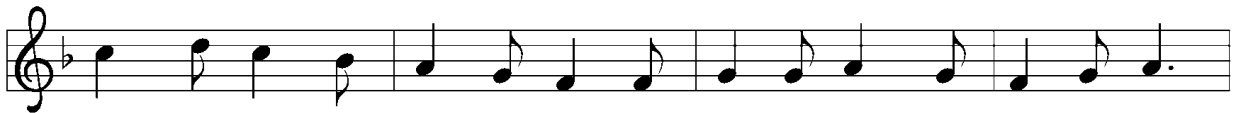
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Atonement Lutheran Church

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

Email: pastorgails@aol.com

Office: (585) 442-1018

Cell : (614) 477-7863

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry
Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

Welcome to worship,

*and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.
If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation
or learning more about our ministries, please speak to our Pastor.*

MISSION STATEMENT

*Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:
Invite all people into the presence of the living God,
Prepare for ministry in daily life and
Go into the world as disciples*

Our Church Nursery is available for parents
to use with their children.

AN EASY WAY TO GIVE ~ SCAN HERE →

Scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera, tap on the link that pops up, and you will be taken directly to Atonement's giving website. If your phone doesn't automatically scan the code, you may need to download a QR code reader app. Many are available for free in the Google Play or Apple App store. Please contact Lindee Krapf if you have any questions.



Thank you for joining us in worship today!

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth. "*

John 1:14



Visit our web site at: **www.atonementrochester.org**
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Call us via phone at: **(585) 442-1018**
Office hours: **9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tues~Wed~Thurs**