

**Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio**

419-592-2616    emanuel@bright.net    www.emanuelnapoleon.org

**Pastor James L. Castello**

419-592-0847    jameslcastello@yahoo.com    cell phone 419-966-2601

**The Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Day — December 25, 2017**

**LBW—Lutheran Book of Worship      WOV—With One Voice**

**\* Please stand as you are able**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**PRELUDE**    *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**    *(you may remain seated)*

P    Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C    Amen.**

P    Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Gracious God,

**C    in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

P    I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name.

**C    Amen**

**HYMN LBW # 45**    *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

**GREETING**

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

**C    And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**    

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow, And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all To gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P    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, now and forever.

**C    Amen**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who  
announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,

you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**A    The word of the Lord.**

**C    Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 98

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done <sup>1</sup> marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have <sup>1</sup> won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made <sup>1</sup> known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness  
in the sight <sup>1</sup> of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the <sup>1</sup> house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory <sup>1</sup> of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- <sup>1</sup> joice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with the harp,  
with the harp and the <sup>1</sup> voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound <sup>1</sup> of the horn  
shout with joy before the <sup>1</sup> king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and <sup>1</sup> all that fills it,  
the world and those who <sup>1</sup> dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers <sup>1</sup> clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
who comes to <sup>1</sup> judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the <sup>1</sup> world with righteousness  
and the peo- <sup>1</sup> ples with equity.

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
<sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much

superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. [<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you"?  
Or again,  
"I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son"?  
<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."  
<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,  
"He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire."  
<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,  
"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom."  
<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

<sup>10</sup>And,  
"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;  
<sup>12</sup>like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will never end."]

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is God's good news, the word come down from heaven.  
Oh, listen, hear and sing, glad tidings now are given!

## \* GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

*(please stand as you are able)*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose

name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did

not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>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.

P The Gospel of our Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN LBW # 41 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## SERMON

HYMN LBW # 60 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (you may remain seated)

\* **NICENE CREED** (please stand as you are able)

**C 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 OF INTERCESSION (you may be seated)

A Created in the image and likeness of God, we pray for the light of life in all people, for new birth among us, and for communities that long for new life.

*A brief silence.*

A You, O God, form your church as the body of Christ. Reshape our hearts to know your grace, open our vision to see your truth, and make our mouths ready to proclaim your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A You speak and the creation comes into being. Call us by a new word to live in harmony with the fragile planet that is our common home. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A You announce peace and salvation to all the earth. Inspire our leaders to find achievable paths toward greater comfort, justice, and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Your voice resounds among us. Give sufficient breath and abundant resilience to those who lead our praises in these festive days. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A You are changeless from generation to generation. Anoint us with the oil of gladness and number us with your saints, who with angels and archangels know you and your majesty to be boundless love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P Your years never end. Sustain those whose increasing years make them weary, console the young who have already known struggle, and protect newborns whose years are just beginning. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

**C Amen.**

\* **PEACE** (please stand as you are able)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

TITHES & OFFERINGS *Silent Night, Holy Night*

**OFFERTORY** 🎵 *(you may remain seated)*

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**

A God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

C **Amen.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

\* **LORD'S PRAYER** *(please stand as you are able)*

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

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**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE** 🎵

Lord, now in your mercy your servants release.  
As your word has promised, oh, grant us your peace.  
Our eyes your salvation and mercy behold,  
Prepared for the nations, as prophets foretold.

*(next page....)*

A light to the Gentiles, by whom they now see  
The glory of Isr'el, the Promised One he  
Who lives now and ever, the heaven's bright Son,  
With Father and Spirit eternally one.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**HYMN LBW # 39** *Joy to the World*

**DISMISSAL**

A Glory to God in the highest!

C **Peace to God's people on earth!**

A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Joy to the World*

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**Serving Today**

Pastor James L. Castello

Worship & Music Coordinator & Organist - Angela Tonjes

Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning

Lay Assistant - Larr Etzler

Sound Board - Holly Mohring

Acolytes - Rudi Dachenhaus & Laci Dachenhaus

Altar Guild - Lauren Helberg & Maxine Eickhoff

Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847) or [cjcast@yahoo.com](mailto:cjcast@yahoo.com)