

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries  
*Growing Together in Christ*



Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day  
Dec 25, 2022  
9:30 a.m.



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### **Welcome**

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

### **For Parents with Children**

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshipping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

### **For Those Needing Hearing Assistance**

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

### **Holy Communion**

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:  
**Bold Font** – Spoken by the Congregation  
 Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant  
 † – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect those who are vulnerable, **masking is strongly recommended**. In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

<b>Nativity of Our Lord</b>	
<i>As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ’s birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare through word and song that we have seen and been transformed by the arrival of “the salvation of our God.” O come, let us adore him...with praise in our pajamas!</i>	
	<b>Prelude</b>  <b>Welcome to Worship</b>
	<b>† Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 9 and John 1)</b>  The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.  For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.  The true light, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world. The Word became flesh and lived among us. Come, let us worship him!

**Gathering Hymn: This Little Light of Mine    ELW 677**

*\*\*\* The Advent Wreath and Christ Candle are lighted\*\*\**

- 1    This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
      this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
      this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
      let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2    Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
      ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
      ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
      let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 3    Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
      Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
      Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
      let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

*The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.*

**† Greeting**

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

*Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy." Chanting is an ancient practice of the church.*

## † Kyrie



Kyrie to the tune of Silent Night, arr. By ELCA pastor Sarah Taylor, used by permission

*The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.*

## † 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.**

## The Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:2-5 (read responsively)**

**P:** In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills;

**C:** all the nations shall stream to it.

	<p>P: Many peoples shall come and say, C: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”</p> <p>P: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. C: He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;</p> <p>P: they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; C: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.</p> <p>P: O house of Jacob, come, C: let us walk in the light of the Lord!</p>
<p><i>We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.</i></p>	<p>† Gospel Acclamation: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW 254 v 2</p> <p>2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king; born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.</p> <p>Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788</p>
<p><i>The Gospel is announced. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks</i></p>	<p>† Sing-a-long with the Gospel in 9 Parts: Luke 2:1-20  (Each time the reader announces “To us is born a Savior,” the assembly responds “Jesus Christ our Lord.”)</p>

*and praise to  
Jesus Christ,  
who is  
revealed to us  
through the  
Gospel  
reading.*

1) 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. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel    ELW 34 v. 1**

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

*The Assembly is seated.*

2) 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. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem    ELW 279 v. 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.

3) 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. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Away in a Manger    ELW 277 v. 1**

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

4) In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**The First Noel    ELW 300 v.1**

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

5) 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." To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear    ELW 282 v. 1**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

6) 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!" To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Angels, We Have Heard on High    ELW 289 v. 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.


7) 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. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Hark, the Herald Angels Sing    ELW 270 v. 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!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

8) 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. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

	<p><b>What Child is This?    ELW 296 v. 1</b></p> <p>What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!</p> <p>9) The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior. <b>Jesus Christ our Lord.</b></p> <p><b>O Come, All Ye Faithful    ELW 283 v. 1</b></p> <p>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: O come, let us adore him O come, let us adore him O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!</p>
<p><i>As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.</i></p>	<p><b>† Prayers of Intercession</b></p> <p>Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as we sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from deeper peace and grant them a restful mind. God of peace, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p>

	<p>Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy especially Peter, Helen, Max, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Daryl, Mary, Scott, Jamie, Mark, Willie, Char, Jen, Rich, Marie, Jeanette . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud. We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p><b>† Passing of the Peace</b></p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always <b>And also with you.</b></p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, “Peace” or “Peace be with you” sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Meal</u></b> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p><b>Offering</b></p> <p>God’s ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at <a href="http://www.goodsoillutheran.org/support">www.goodsoillutheran.org/support</a> or by using this QR code:</p> <p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don’t take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil’s support page.</i></p> 

<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p><b>† Offering Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice    ELW 288 v 3</b></p> <p>3    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 the everlasting hall.  Christ was born to save!  Christ was born to save!</p>
	<p><b>† Offering Prayer</b></p> <p>God of abundance,  receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  and gather us at your table of celebration.  Strengthen us to share with all the world  the abundance of your grace upon grace,  poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p><b>† Great Thanksgiving</b></p> <p>The Lord be with you.  And also with you.</p> <p>Lift up your hearts.  <b>We lift them to the Lord.</b></p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  <b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b></p>
	<p><b>† Words of Institution</b></p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when</i></p>	<p><b>† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)</b></p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.</p>

<i>they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>† Invitation to the Table</p> <p>Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.</p>
	<p>† Communion</p> <p><i>Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”</i></p> <p><i>Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front down the center aisle. We will be observing standing, processional communion this morning, rather than kneeling at the rail.</i></p> <p><i>Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.</i></p>
	<p>Communion Hymns:</p> <p>Angels, from the Realms of Glory    ELW 275</p> <p>1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.</p>

- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

### **Love Has Come    ELW 292**

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

	<p>3 Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!</p> <p>Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695</p>
	<p>† <b>Post-Communion Table Blessing</b></p> <p>May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><i>With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.</i></p>	<p>† <b>Blessing</b></p> <p>May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the courage of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† <b>Sending Hymn: Go Tell It On the Mountain      ELW 290</b></p> <p>Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!</p> <p>1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth</p>

	<p>rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.</p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body— fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i></p>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. <b>Thanks be to God.</b></p>
	<p><b>Postlude</b></p>

*You are warmly invited to gather in the kitchen/lounge area down the hall from the sanctuary for a “cookie potluck” and hot cocoa immediately following worship.*

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Today’s Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Michael Wancata
Ushers: Barbara Demko-Werner and Joan Zeager	Counters: Jessica Berkshire and Joe Lanter
Online Usher: Bill Fink	Acolyte: Amelia Forshey