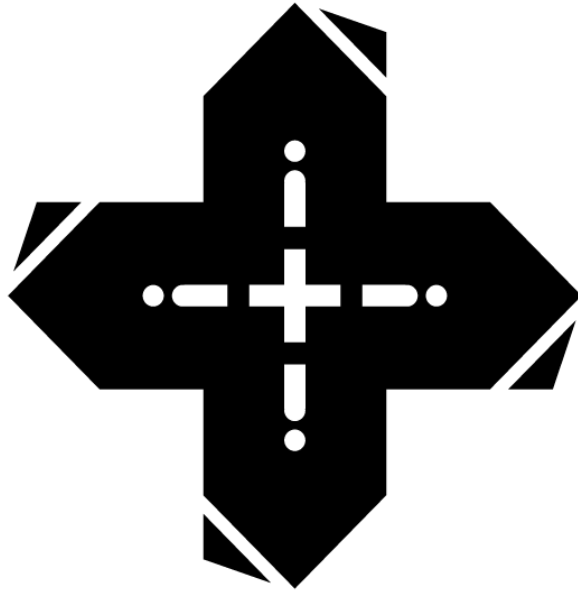


Connecting Christ. Creating Community.



HUNTERSVILLE
Lutheran Church

The Festival of the Holy Innocents
12.27.20



Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for
A Changing Community*

Worshipping at the Brick Row 19725 Oak St. Cornelius, NC

Bible Class @ 8:45am | Worship @ 9:30am

Pastor@huntersvillelc.com | huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength though God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located in the hallway at the rear of the building. Simply follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

Service Participants

Rev. Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*
Andrea Van Sice, *keyboardist*

Service Notes | *The Twelve Days of Christmas* |

For centuries, the church has set aside the days between Christmas and the festival of Epiphany to reflect on what God has done for his people in Bethlehem. These days are known as the *12 Days of Christmas*. These 12 Days of Christmas has less to do with two turtle doves and five golden rings and has far more to do with what God's Son came to do for us.

Today, as part of the twelve days of Christmas, we celebrate the Festival of the Holy Innocents. There is evil in the world that fights against God's Son. On this day the Church remembers how King Herod tried to kill the Christ child along with the boys of Bethlehem. Come and see how God preserved his Son and still preserves his Church.

About Huntersville Lutheran

Huntersville Lutheran is a community of believers that is here for you. We are supported by, and are members of, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada. Huntersville Lutheran exists to connect Christ to people's hearts through the Gospel and, in so doing, create a connected community who loves and cares for both those who are connected and those who are waiting to find a connection. For find out more about us, visit our website: [**huntersvillelc.com**](http://huntersvillelc.com).

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn | *What Child Is This* |



1 What child is this who, laid to rest,
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh;



On Mar - y's lap is sleep - - ing?
 Where ox - en now are feed - - ing?
 Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet
 Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here
 The King of kings Sal - va - tion brings;



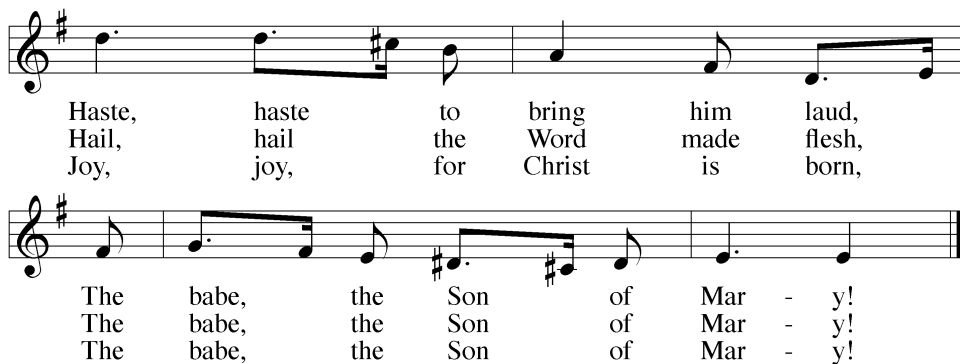
While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, Whom
 Nails, this spear shall pierce him through; The
 Raise, raise the song on high; The



shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.
 cross he'll bear for me, for you.
 vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



Haste, haste to bring him laud,
Hail, hail to the Word made flesh,
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!

Invocation

Stand.

L In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.¹

C Amen.

Confession of Sins

L Dear friends, let us confess our sins with a true heart in the presence of God and one another.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

C I confess to you, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed

by my fault,

by my own fault,

by my own grievous fault;

therefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

L Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. As a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says to you: Your sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

¹ The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptisms.

Lord, Have Mercy | *Kyrie*² |

L In Peace, let us pray to the Lord:

For the well-being of all people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, hear our prayer, O Christ.

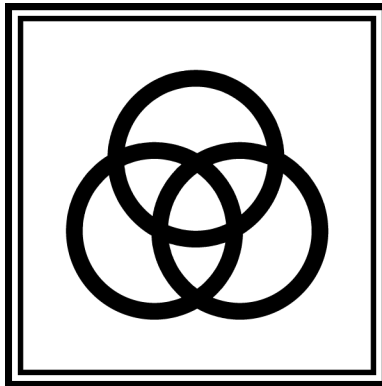
C Christ, have mercy.

L For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C Amen.



² The word *Kyrie* is a Greek word from the phrase *Kyrie elieson* which means, "Lord, have mercy!" This is the most heartfelt cry of a believer to his Lord. It is not a cry for forgiveness, but a cry for mercy that our Lord and King hear us and help us in our necessities and trouble. Christians have been praying the *Kyrie* at Sunday worship for more than 1700 years (that's why its name is Greek, the language most commonly spoken at the time). This morning, may it also be our heartfelt cry to our Lord and King.

Song of Praise | *Angels We Have Heard on High* |



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed

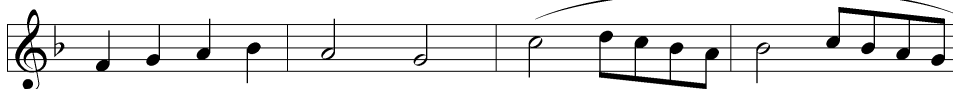


ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray:

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Receive into the arms of your mercy all who lay down their lives for your sake, and prepare us by your grace to be ready at all times to live and die for you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☑ Amen.

THE WORD

Children's Sermon

First Reading | *Jeremiah 31:15-17* |

¹⁵ This is what the LORD says:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
mourning and great weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

¹⁶ This is what the LORD says:

"Restrain your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for your work will be rewarded,"
declares the LORD.

"They will return from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷ So there is hope for your descendants,"
declares the LORD.

"Your children will return to their own land.

Psalm 130

L Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

C O Lord, hear my voice.

L Let your ears be attentive

C To my cry for mercy.

L If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

C O Lord, who could stand?

L But with you there is forgiveness;

C Therefore you are feared.

L I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.

C My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning

L O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,

C For with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

Second Reading | *1 Peter 4:12-19* |

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

The Gospel

Please Stand.

L The Gospel according to Matthew, chapter two.

C **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."



L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day | *O Little Town of Bethlehem* |



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -



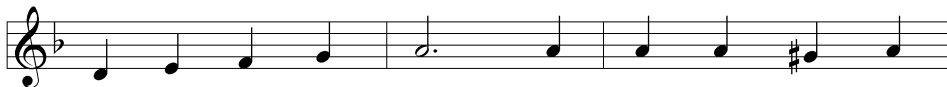
still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
 gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The



ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
 in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -
 great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -



all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 God the King And peace to all the earth.
 ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
 bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Sermon

Matthew 2:13-18

Personal Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith | *The Apostles' Creed* |

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Offering | The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, text any dollar amount to **84321**. Easy to follow instructions will be sent to your phone to complete your digital offering. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.

Take Action Cards | In your service folder, you will find *Take Action* Cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your *Take Action* card in the offering plate as it comes around.

Prayer of the Church

- L** Heavenly Father, today we pray for the Church, the people of your promise, to whom you have revealed your Son as Savior and Redeemer, that we may enjoy the gift of good and faithful ministers, and that you may prosper the Word and bring to fruition the proclamation of your Word in every place and time. Lord, in your mercy:
 - C** Hear our prayer.
- L** Lord, we are incredibly grateful for all of the gifts you have given to us. We ask that you help us to use these gifts, whatever they may be, with joy and wisdom, and for your glory. In whatever situation we are serving, wherever we are serving, whomever we are serving, help us to always see these as opportunities to let our light shine and serve you. Lord, in your mercy:
 - C** Hear our prayer.
- L** Holy Spirit, light divine, we ask you to increase our joy and sustain us in this joy and thanksgiving throughout the days of this Christmas season, until that day when at last the Lord returns in his glory as the lord and judge of all. Lord in your mercy:
 - C** Hear our prayer.
- L** Hear us, O Lord, for we are the people of your promise and the children whom you have redeemed through the salvation accomplished through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 - C** Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Blessing

L The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

In his love and mercy
HE REDEEMED THEM
he lifted them up and carried them
ALL THE DAYS OF OLD

Song of Departure | *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* |



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; Wise men sought and found him.
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There he lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round them.
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.



Such a babe in such a place— Can he be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing.
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!

Announcements

Thank You | You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning we pray that your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

Setup and Take Down Team | Every Sunday, a team of volunteers shows up and sets up everything you see here today. After the service, they stick around, take it all down, and load it into the trailer. We want to thank them for their faithful service! If you are interested in helping with setup and takedown on a Sunday morning, please just jump in. If you have questions about it, feel free to contact Pastor Van Sice or talk to him after the service.

Want to learn more? | Are you interested in learning more about Huntersville Lutheran and what the bible teaches? The best way to do that is by signing up for a Faith Builders Class. Faith Builders is our course on the basics of the Christian Faith. To sign up, speak with Pastor Van Sice or go to www.huntersvillelc.com/takeaction and fill out the form.

