## Chrishmashine

DECEMBER 25, 2024 o WEDNESDAY, 10:00 A.M.

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



Adoration of the Christ Child (1523). Lorenzo Lotto (c. 1480 – 1556/57). Oil on canvas.



UR CHURCHES TEACH THAT THE WORD, THAT IS THE SON OF GOD, ASSUMED THE HUMAN NATURE IN THE WOMB OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

-AUGSBURG CONFESSION, ARTICLE III. THE SON OF GOD, 1-2

### **DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE**

"Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved". -*Augsburg Confession*, Article XXIV. The Mass, 1-2a

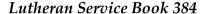


### **PRELUDE**

Wexford Carol Unknown

### Processional Hymn

Please stand and face the processional cross.



"Of the Father's Love Begotten"



### SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

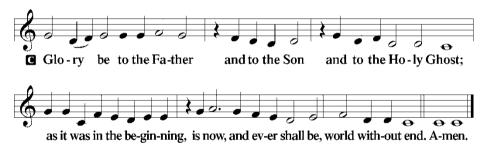
Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6



- For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*
  and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
  and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\*
  Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace."
- Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marv'lous things!\*

  His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.
- The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*
  he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
- He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.\*

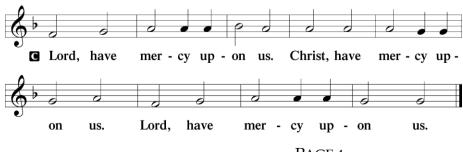
  All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.
- Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;\*
  break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!



■ For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\* and the government shall be upon his | shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\* Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace."

### KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47



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- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sitting

PROPHECY Isaiah 52:6–10

- A The Prophecy for the Nativity of Our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter 52.
- Thus says the LORD God: "My people shall know My name; therefore they shall know in that day that I am He who speaks: 'Behold, it is I.'" How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, with

their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the LORD brings back Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL Psalm 118:26a, 27a, 23



- Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!\*

  The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.
- This is the LORD's | doing;\*
  it is marvelous | in our eyes.

**EPISTLE Hebrews 1:1–12** 

- **A** The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapter one.
- $\mathbf{A}$ Brethren: God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He
- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire." But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil Your of gladness more than companions." And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



L A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord.



HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1–14

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



 $\mathbf{P}$ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the

world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



### NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy 6:4 the Father Almighty, Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3 maker of heaven and earth Genesis 1:1; John 1:1 and of all things visible and invisible. Colossians 1:16

> And in one Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 10:9 the only-begotten Son of God, John 3:16; Matthew 16:16 begotten of His Father before all worlds, John 1:2 God of God, Light of Light, John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1 very God of very God, Colossians 2:9 begotten, not made, John 1:2 being of one substance with the Father, John 10:30 by Whom all things were made; Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3 Who for us men and for our salvation 1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 3:23 came down from heaven John 6:41; Luke 15:20 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary Luke 1:34-35 and was made man; John 1:14 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18 He suffered and was buried. John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53 And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures 1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6 and ascended into heaven Acts 1:9 and sits at the right hand of the Father. Acts 7:55 And He will come again with glory Matthew 26:64 to judge both the living and the dead, Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38 the Lord and giver of life, Genesis 1:2; John 3:6
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, John 15:26

Whose kingdom will have no end. 2 Peter 1:11

Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 2:14 Who spoke by the prophets. Ezekiel 11:5

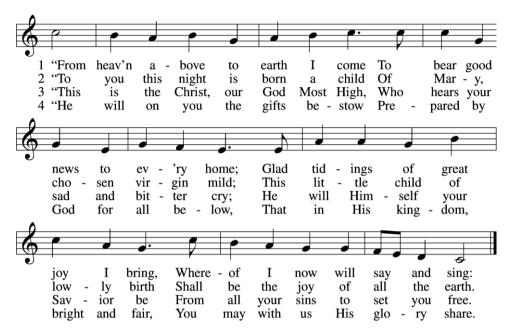
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, 1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, Ephesians 4:5 and I look for the resurrection of the dead 1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and the life + of the world to come. Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42

Amen. Psalm 106:48

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### Lutheran Service Book 358

### "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"



- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
  The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
  There you will find the infant laid
  By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,And see what in the manger lies.Who is this child, so young and fair?It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
  Through whom the sinful world is blest!
  You came to share my misery
  That You might share Your joy with me.

Continued on next page . . .

- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small, That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare, It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
  You have but hay and straw so rough
  On which as King, so rich and great,
  To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see
  This simple truth revealed to me:
  That worldly honor, wealth, and might
  Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
  Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
  A quiet chamber set apart
  For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep. I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
  Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
  While angels sing with pious mirth
  A glad new year to all the earth.

**SERMON** 

OFFERTORY Psalm 51:10–12



Sitting

### **OFFERING**

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Johann Schop

Standing

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

- Lord God, heavenly Father, as You have caused Your eternal light to dawn on our darkness in the incarnation of Your only begotten Son, cause His glory to shine on us in the grace and truth of His Word, that we may receive Him with joy and believe in His name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Support all pastors, Lord, in their proclamation of Christ. Be pleased through their work to bring the good news of joy and salvation to all who hear them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

- Be near to those who suffer persecution for the sake of Your Son. As oppression seeks to quench His light in them, sustain them in the truth that the darkness cannot overcome Him. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- As our families gather in this holy season, give us patience, that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Comfort the lonely with Your presence, and help us extend the welcome of our homes and the friendship of Your grace. Make us mindful of those less fortunate, who celebrate this blessed feast in poverty and want, and teach us to be generous. Accept with our offerings the living sacrifice of our bodies to Your service and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Your Son took up our flesh so that He might heal and restore it, according to Your good purposes; let His healing hand be upon the sick and those who suffer in our midst [especially \_\_\_\_\_\_]. Comfort those who grieve this day with the truth that the Babe of Bethlehem was born so that the dead might live. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P Grant that we may come worthily to receive the body and blood of Jesus with faith in His bodily presence for us, that we may depart with grace upon grace from His fullness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P Joining in heaven's eternal praise for the revelation of Your love in Your Word made flesh, we boldly lay all our petitions before You, dear Father, trusting that You will hear us for His sake, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

Following the prayers, please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for worthy reception of the Holy Supper.

Please remain standing.

### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### **PREFACE**

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Kneeling or sitting forward.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- **P** 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,

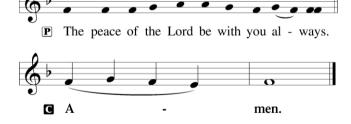
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



### PAX DOMINI ~ The Peace of the Lord

John 20:19





Sitting

### About participation in the Lord's Supper:

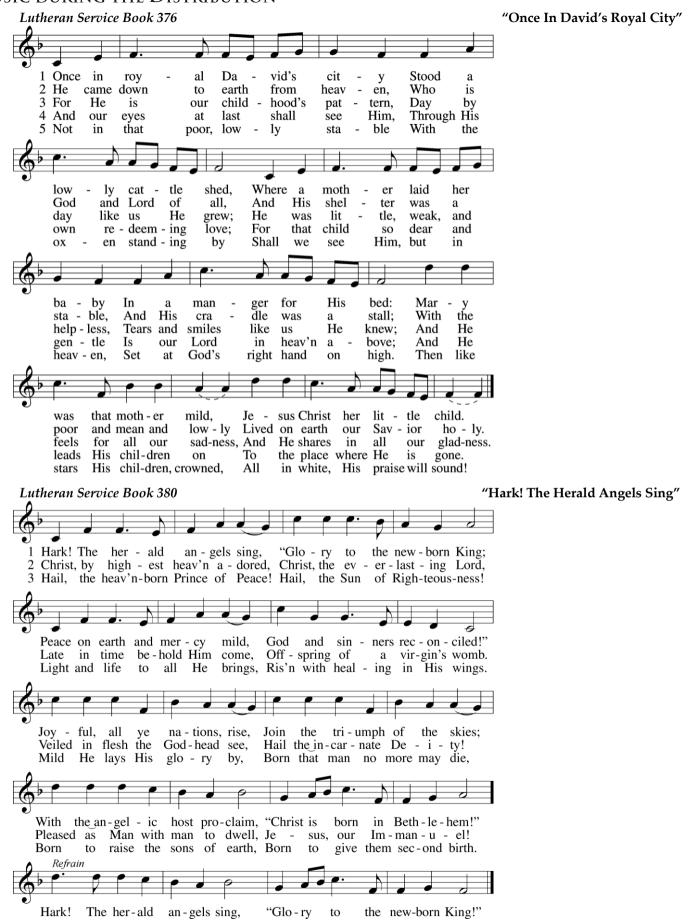
The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)

### MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION



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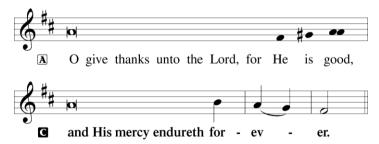
### NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1



### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

- **P** Let us pray.
  - O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

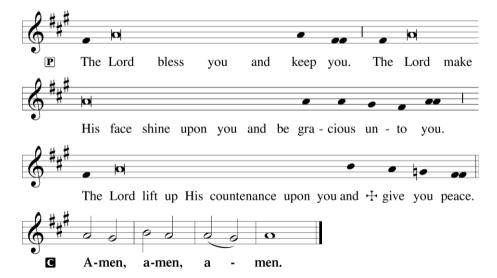
### SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1



BENEDICTION

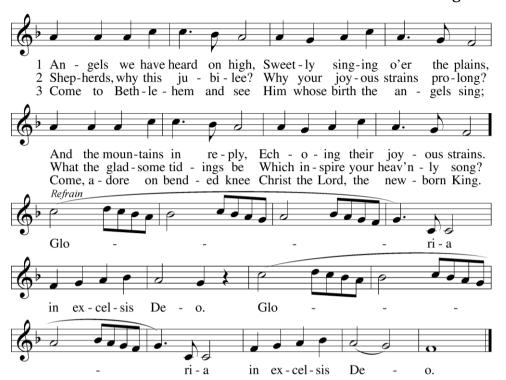
Numbers 6:24-26



### **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

### Lutheran Service Book 368

### "Angels We Have Heard On High"



### **POSTLUDE**

A Great and Mighty Wonder

Köln



### SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

### **Presiding Minister**

Rev. David V. Miller, Pastor

### Altar Assistant(s)

Jason Schoellen, *Elder* Emilie Schoellen, *Acolyte* 

### **Organist**

Laura Darden, Interim Director of Music

### Cantor

Adrian Popescu

### Altar Guild

Jeni Miller

### Usher(s)

Brian Beckman/Greg Ison

## THE POINSETTIAS ADORNING THE ALTAR WERE GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED BY:

Brian & Darlene Beckman, to the glory of God.

### Anne Bigelow,

in memory of Marlys & Bob Bigelow, in memory of Robert Bigelow, and in memory of Mary B. Huntoon.

### Eileen Buehl,

in memory of Dan Buehl Sr.

### Nancy Grossberg,

in memory of Fred & Ruth Honea.

### John Kateen,

in memory of Arlene Kateen.

### Jan Knehans,

in honor of Leslie Clarke (daughter), and in memory of Gerhard & Lenora Knehans (parents).

### Tom Lawton & Linda Rathje,

in memory of Harriet Rathje.

### John Reichman,

To the glory of God.

### Clara Smith,

in memory of Thees & Rachel Schnakenberg, and in memory of John & Dolores Schnakenberg.



The Lutheran Church of the Ascension

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