

# Christmastide

DECEMBER 24, 2025 • WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M.

EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD





BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL  
HIS NAME IMMANUEL.”

- ISAIAH 7:14

# 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

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Please stand and face the processional cross.*

*Lutheran Service Book 379*

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## INTROIT

*Psalms 2:1-2, 4-6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*



**L** When all was still, and it was | midnight,\*  
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

**L** Why do the | nations rage\*  
and the peoples | plot in vain?

**C** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,\*  
against the LORD and against his a- | noointed.

**L** He who sits in the | heavens laughs;\*  
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.

**C** Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,\*  
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,

**L** "As for me, I have | set my King\*  
on Zion, my | holy hill."



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-nig, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

**L** When all was still, and it was | midnight,\*  
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

## KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

*Mark 10:47*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo and meter are indicated by a common time signature 'C' and a 'P' (Piano) dynamic marking. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words in bold. The score consists of 12 lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are:   
P Glory be to God on high; **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward   
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,   
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.   
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.   
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;   
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,   
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.   
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.   
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -   
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.   
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,   
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sitting*

## PROPHECY

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

**A** The Prophecy for the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter nine.

**A** The Lord spoke by the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shone.

You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.

- C** Thanks be to God.

*Psalm 98:3b-4a, 2*



- # EPISTLE

## Titus 2:11-14

- C** Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

*Psalm 95:1a, 6b*



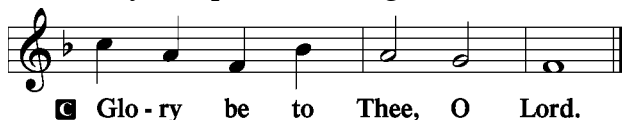
- L** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD. Let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!



## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 2:1-20**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



- P** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,



“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with  
whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them  
into heaven, the shepherds said to one  
another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that has happened,  
which the Lord has made known to  
us.” And they went with haste and  
found Mary and Joseph, and the  
baby lying in a manger. And when they

saw it, they made known the saying that  
had been told them concerning this  
child. And all who heard it wondered at  
what the shepherds told them. But Mary  
treasured up all these things, pondering  
them in her heart. And the shepherds  
returned, glorifying and praising God  
for all they had heard and seen, as it had  
been told them.

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



## NICENE CREED

**C** **I believe in one God**, *Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:6*  
**the Father Almighty**, *Psalms 89:26; Matthew 6:9; Romans 1:20*  
**maker of heaven and earth** *Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; John 1:1*  
**and of all things visible and invisible.** *2 Corinthians 4:18; Colossians 1:16*

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ**, *1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:5; 1 Timothy 2:5*  
**the only-begotten Son of God**, *John 1:14; 3:16, 18; Acts 13:33; 1 John 4:9*  
**begotten of His Father before all worlds**, *John 1:18; 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 1:17; 1 Peter 1:20*  
**God of God, Light of Light**, *John 1:4-9; 8:12; 12:46; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 21:23*  
**very God of very God**, *Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:19; 2:9; 1 John 5:20*  
**begotten, not made**, *John 1:2*

**being of one substance with the Father**, *John 10:30; 17:22*  
**by Whom all things were made**; *John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2*

**Who for us men and for our salvation** *John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:4*  
**came down from heaven** *John 3:13; 6:41; Luke 15:20; Ephesians 4:10*

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary** *Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:34-35*  
**and was made man**; *John 1:14; Galatians 4:4*

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.** *Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:25; Luke 23:33; John 19:18*  
**He suffered and was buried.** *Acts 1:13; 3:18; Matthew 14:12; Mark 15:46; Luke 23:53; John 19:42*

**And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures** *Luke 24:46; Acts 10:40; 1 Corinthians 15:4*  
**and ascended into heaven** *Luke 24:51; John 20:17; Acts 1:2, 9, 11, 22; Ephesians 4:8*

**and sits at the right hand of the Father.** *Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33; 5:31; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1*  
**And He will come again with glory** *Matthew 26:64; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 1:7*

**to judge both the living and the dead**, *Acts 10:42; 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5; Revelation 20:12*  
**Whose kingdom will have no end.** *Luke 1:33; 2 Peter 1:11; Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 11:15*



**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,** *John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2:4*

**the Lord and giver of life,** *Genesis 1:2; John 3:5-6; 15:26-27; Romans 8:2*

**Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,** *John 14:26; 16:7; Acts 1:8; 2:33; Romans 5:5*

**Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,** *Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14*

**Who spoke by the prophets.** *Luke 1:67; Acts 28:25; Ephesians 3:5; 2 Peter 1:21*

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,** *Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 21:14*

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,** *Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5*

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead** *John 5:29; 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20-22*

**and the life ✠ of the world to come.** *Mark 10:29-30; Luke 18:30; John 5:24; 6:33; Galatians 6:8; 1 Timothy 4:8; 1 John 5:11*

**Amen.** *Psalm 106:48; 2 Corinthians 1:20*

*Sitting*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lutheran Service Book 359*

**"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

## SERMON

Standing

## OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sitting

## OFFERING

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Arr. Paul Wohl gemuth

Ascension Ringers and Adult Choir

Standing

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1–4]

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

*Brief silence*

**P** Almighty God, by the incarnation of Your eternal Son, You revealed that You are love. Give us true faith in Christ and His promise that by His conception, virgin birth, holy life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, our sins are forgiven and we are Yours. Fill us with joy, and lead us to proclaim Your glad tidings to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Heavenly Father, by the gift of Your Holy Spirit we testify that Your Son is the Savior of the world. Pour out Your Spirit continually upon Your people. Bless pastors as they proclaim Jesus who became flesh to save us by dying and rising again, and open our mouths to praise the name of the One born in Bethlehem. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Remember all families, Lord. Make each household a place of prayer and devotion to Your Word. Bless parents of young children with patience. Give comfort to the childless. Abide with the fatherless, widows and orphans, the lonely, and those separated from their families. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** King of Israel, the One born in Bethlehem is the Son of David and the Lord of David, to whom every knee shall bow. Look upon those You have placed in authority, and grant that they would govern in wisdom and justice. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord, in the birth of Your Son You have visited and redeemed Your people. Continue to visit those who are lonely, sick, recovering or near death [including \_\_\_\_\_]. Let Your presence be a comfort to them, and give them perseverance until that time You grant healing, relief, deliverance and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who feeds us in body and soul, give true faith in Your promises to all who will receive Your Son's body and blood this night. Sustain Your people in humble repentance and godly living. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Remember the bereaved, O Lord. Give comfort to [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all who grieve this night, that they might find, through the celebration of our Lord's nativity, hope in the midst of sorrow, knowing that Christ was born to conquer death and give eternal life to all believers. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** All these things we pray, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your own Son, whom You have made known to us in the mystery of the Word made flesh, who has fulfilled all the Law and the prophets and delivered us to You as Your own people through the blood of the everlasting covenant, that we may do what is good and right and pleasing in Your sight. To You be all glory and honor, worship and praise, now and forevermore.  
**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]

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

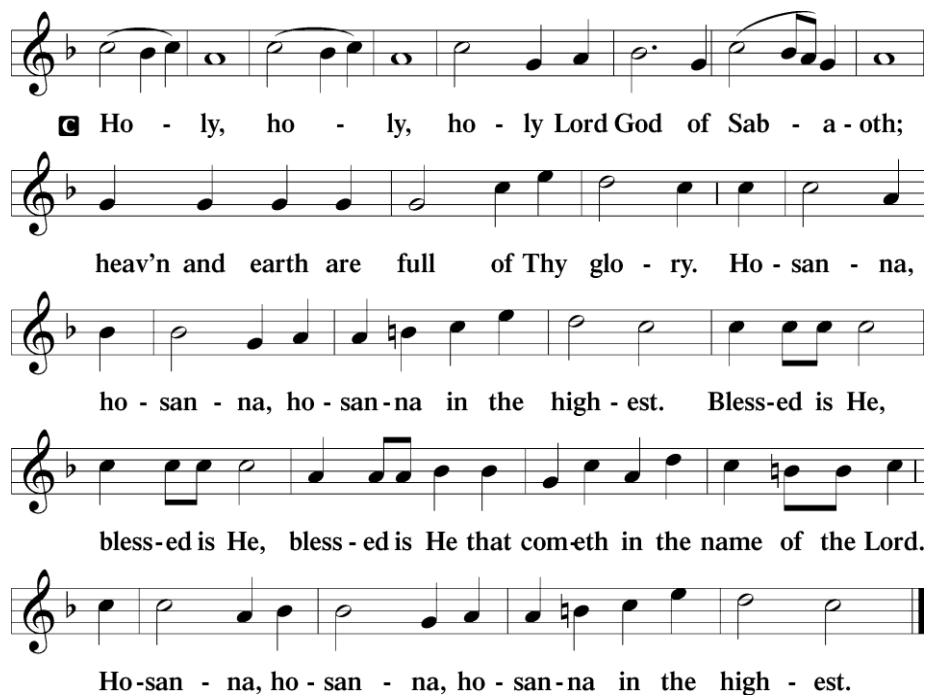
**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** 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:

## SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Kneeling or sitting forward.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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.



# THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

**P** Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,  
and when He had giv-en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the  
dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ̣ bod-y, which is giv-en for you.  
This do in re-mem-brance of Me." In the same way al- so  
He took the cup after sup-per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it  
to them, say-ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in  
My ̣ blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.  
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al- ways.  
**A** A - men.

## AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*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

Lutheran Service Book 948

"All Glory Be to God Alone"

1 All glo - ry be to God a - lone, For - ev - er - more the  
 2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless And wor - ship You in  
 3 Lord God, our King on heav - en's throne, Our Fa - ther, the Al -  
 4 You take the whole world's sin a - way; Have mer - cy on us,  
 5 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One And o - ver all are

high - est one, Who did our sin - ful race be - friend And  
 hum - ble - ness; From day to day we glo - ri - fy The  
 might - y One. O Lord, the sole - be - got - ten One, Lord  
 Lord, we pray. You take the whole world's sin a - way; O  
 Lord a - lone. O Je - sus Christ, we glo - ri - fy You

grace and peace to us ex - tend. A - mong us may His  
 ev - er - last - ing God on high. Of Your great glo - ry  
 Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's Son, True God from all e -  
 Lord, re - ceive our prayer this day. From God's right hand Your  
 and the Spir - it, Lord Most High; With Him You ev - er -

gra - cious will All hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.  
 do we sing, And to Your throne our thanks we bring.  
 ter - ni - ty, O Lamb of God, to You we flee.  
 mer - cy send, To all the world Your grace ex - tend.  
 more shall be One in the Fa - ther's maj - es - ty.

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1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 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.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## Lutheran Service Book 380

## "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 Righteous-ness!



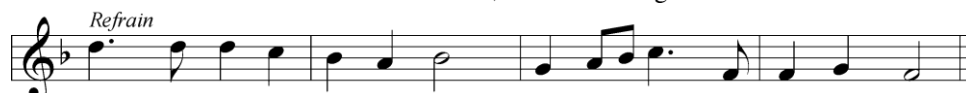
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



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

# NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

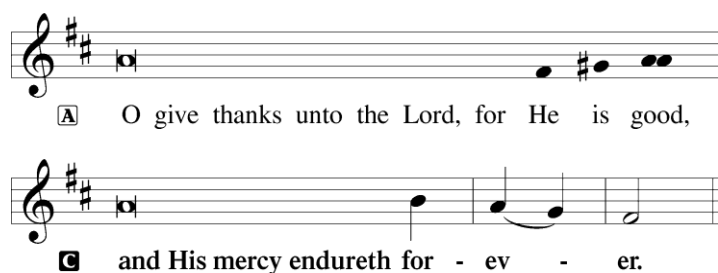
Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

## THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1



O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
 and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## 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.

*Sitting*

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

*The ushers will approach your pew with lighted individual candles to symbolize that we have received the Light of the world in the newborn Christ child.*

*Lutheran Service Book 364*

**“Away in a Manger”**

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee 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 sky \_\_\_\_\_ looked down where He lay,  
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy 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 take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text and tune: Public domain





1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



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

## Lutheran Service Book 363

## "Silent Night, Holy Night"



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - dant



vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*All may now extinguish their individual candles. After service, candles may be returned to the designated box located in the narthex.*

## SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.



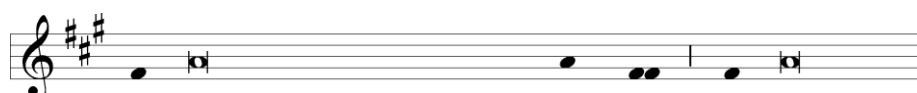
**A** Bless we the Lord.



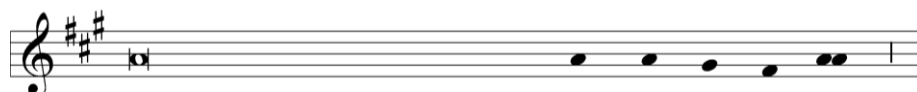
**G** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

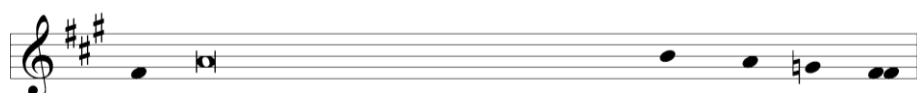
Numbers 6:24-26



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



**G** A-men, a-men, a - men.

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 368

"Angels We Have Heard On High"



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



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed 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.

Text and tune: Public domain

# POSTLUDE



## SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

### **Presiding Minister**

Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

### **Altar Assistant(s)**

Grayson Beckman, *Chair of Elders*

Jude Miller, *Acolyte/Gospel Bearer*

### **Organist**

Abby Warnke, *Director of Music*

### **Cantor**

Adrian Popescu

### **Choir/Handbell Chimes**

Brian Beckman, tenor

Margaret Beckman, alto

Will Davis, tenor/handbells

Patty Harmon, alto/handbells

Rev. Steve Harmon, tenor

Ryan Licht, tenor

Eden Miller, soprano/handbells

Jeni Miller, soprano

Adrian Popescu, tenor

Clara Smith, alto/handbells

Cindy Warnke, alto

### **Altar Guild**

Whitney Worthington/Kati Durden

### **Usher(s)**

Brian Beckman/Greg Ison

THE POINSETTIAS ADORNING THE ALTAR  
WERE GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED BY:

Brian & Darlene Beckman,  
in memory of Suzanne Powell.

Eileen Buehl,  
in memory of Dan Buehl Sr.

Heidi Floyd,  
in memory of William Staib,  
and in memory of Richard Floyd.

Nancy Grossberg,  
to the glory of God.

John Kateen,  
in memory of Arlene Kateen.

Adrian Popescu,  
in memory of Kerstin Margareta & Eriks Dotter Hartelius Popescu.

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





**B**UT YOU, O BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH, WHO ARE TOO LITTLE TO BE AMONG THE CLANS OF JUDAH, FROM YOU SHALL COME FORTH FOR ME ONE WHO IS TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL, WHOSE COMING FORTH IS FROM OF OLD, FROM ANCIENT DAYS. THEREFORE HE SHALL GIVE THEM UP UNTIL THE TIME WHEN SHE WHO IS IN LABOR HAS GIVEN BIRTH; THEN THE REST OF HIS BROTHERS SHALL RETURN TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. AND HE SHALL STAND AND SHEPHERD HIS FLOCK IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD, IN THE MAJESTY OF THE NAME OF THE LORD HIS GOD. AND THEY SHALL DWELL SECURE, FOR NOW HE SHALL BE GREAT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. AND HE SHALL BE THEIR PEACE.

– MICAH 5:2-5



THE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH OF THE  
ASCENSION

4000 ROSWELL ROAD · ATLANTA, GA 30342  
404-255-0224 · 404-256-0037 FAX  
[WWW.ASCENSION-LCMS.COM](http://WWW.ASCENSION-LCMS.COM)