

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

DIVINE SERVICE

(From: *Lutheran Service Book—Setting One*)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Stand to face the processional cross at the rear of the sanctuary.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

from John 1

P In the beginning was the Word

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory

C glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Processional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymnal Page No. 379



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,



Confession and Absolution

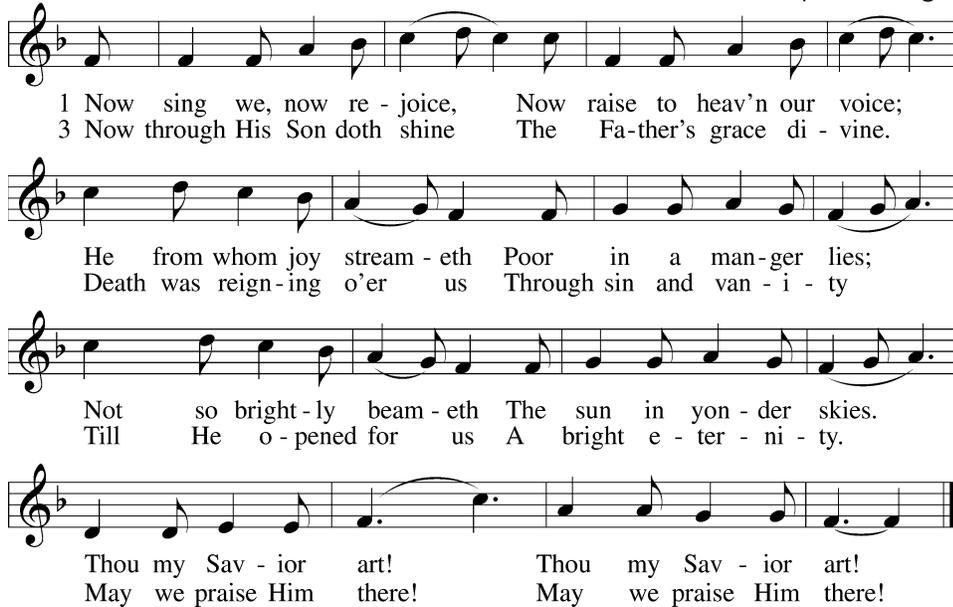
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

Hymnal Page No. 386



✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
 O God, You scatter the darkness of this world with Your 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.

Sit

Choral Offering (6:30pm)

Adult Choir

"To Thee My Heart I Offer"

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Hymn of Preparation

Hymnal Page No. 384

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And 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.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

Hymnal Page No. 361

O Little Town of Bethlehem



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!

Sermon

Hymn of Response

Hymnal Page No. 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 Righ-teous-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!"

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

Sit

Offering

(We ask ALL members and visitors to take a card, fill out the appropriate Member or Visitor side and mark if you are attending Communion if this is a Communion Service. You may place your completed card in the offering plate.)

Stand

Offertory

Hymnal Page No. 370



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!

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Lord's Prayer

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

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei



G Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Choral Offering (6:30pm)

Melinda Lein

"O Holy Night"

Distribution Music

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence

For with bless-ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de-
 In the bod-y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end-less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-

scend - ing Comes our hom-age to de-mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark-ness clears a-way.
 lu - ia! Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"

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.

Tune and text: Public domain

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,

From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
 Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
 When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-’ring wing,
 Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an - cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o’er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Stand

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lighting of Candles

