

**CHRISTMAS EVE.
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

December 24, 2020

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE

Pastorale from Eighth Concerto Grosso
Toccata on "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"
"The Shepherd's Song"
"Yuletide Joyeux"
"On Christmas Night all Christians Sing"

arr. J. Pasquet
arr. D. Wagner
arr. D. Hustad
arr. D. Anderson
arr. D. Anderson

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City"

LSB 376

INVOCATION

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

G Amen

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
G **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness
G **and illumine Your Church.**

"We Light the Advent Candle"



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to
2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for
3 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And sing with cheer - ful
4 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And share the won - drous
5 We light the Christ - mas can - dle And sing with peace and



come. With hope, we trust the prom - ise That
 rest. With peace, we know our Je - sus Has
 heart. With joy, we spread the mes - sage— A
 Word. With love, we tell of Je - sus Till
 joy. Our hope is now be - got - ten In



He will bring us home. Our hope is in our
 come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all
 bless - ing to im - part. Our joy is nev - er
 all a - round have heard. God's love is for each
 Christ, the in - fant boy. God's love with us is



Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fa - vor. We
 know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing. We
 end - ing; The Son to us is send - ing. We
 na - tion Through - out His whole cre - a - tion. We
 dwell - ing, All dark - ness now dis - pel - ling. We



wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!
 wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!
 wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!
 wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!
 cel - e - brate with light, For God makes all things right!

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

COLLECT

- P** Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION

John 1:1–5; Isaiah 40:9

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 was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

HYMN

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387

Sit

FIRST READING

Luke 1:5–13, 16, 59–79

P ⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. ⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁵and on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ¹⁶but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ¹⁷And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ¹⁸And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ¹⁹And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ²⁰And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ²¹And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things

were talked about through all the hill country of Judea,⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LSB 344 sts. 1–3

SECOND READING

Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

HYMN

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

LSB 356 sts. 1–3

THIRD READING

Luke 2:1–7

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.

HYMN (*3 PM Service*)

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB 358 sts. 1–5, 15

WOMEN'S CHOIR (*5 & 7 PM*)

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

arr. D. Zaloudik

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing greet the morrow;
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, was born for you!

FOURTH READING

Luke 2:8–12

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."

HYMN

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

LSB 366

FIFTH READING

Luke 2:13–14

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!"

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB 388

SIXTH READING

Matthew 2:1–11

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest

over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

HYMN

“What Child Is This”

LSB 370

SERMON

Stand

CREED

**☩ 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Dear people of God, once again we have heard the message of the angels, visited Bethlehem with shepherds and Magi, and beheld the Son of God in human flesh, born of the Virgin Mary and lying in a manger. Now let us respond with praise and prayer, rejoicing to offer Him our petitions and supplications on behalf of ourselves and everyone according to their need, confident that He will answer with all that is good, right, and best for us all.

Silence for meditation

P Merciful Father, we have lived through a time of great uncertainty and fear and now come again into Your presence on this most holy of nights. Deliver us from all epidemics, from the perils of war and violence, and from the loss of job and home. Open our hearts to receive with faith the joy of our Savior's coming and to trust in His salvation forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Blessed Lord, give to those most in need the courage and patience to await Your deliverance, and give to us kind and generous hearts that we share Your gifts with those around us and multiply the blessing of Your rich and daily provision. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P O gracious God, deliver Your people from all their afflictions of body and soul, give aid and comfort to the hospitalized, be present with the aged and infirm, and give to the dying and the grieving Your peace, [*especially* . . .], and those now named in our hearts [*silence*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A O wise and faithful Father, deliver Your Church from her enemies, and provide her with faithful pastors to serve the Means of Grace to us in Your name. Give Your

guidance to those who lead us in our Synod, district, and circuit, and bless especially our pastors, church workers, missionaries, and those preparing for full-time service. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Mighty Lord, You have power over all things. Aid our government and elected leaders with Your Word and Spirit that they be guided by Your commands to pursue justice and work for the common good. Teach them and us the value of life and to work for the protection of the unborn, the care of the widow and orphan, and the support of the aged. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A O loving God, we give You thanks that Mary heard Your Word and pondered it in her heart and that Joseph served Your Son so faithfully. Bless husbands, wives, parents, children, and all families. Help us to ponder Your Word in our hearts and to live it out that our homes be places of blessing and peace. Accept our songs of praise and the tithes and offerings we bring in response to Your mercy and as signs of our gratitude and faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

P Merciful Father,

C We confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We do sincerely repent of our sins and ask Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to grant us forgiveness. Give us the will and desire to amend our sinful lives by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we come to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

† 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.

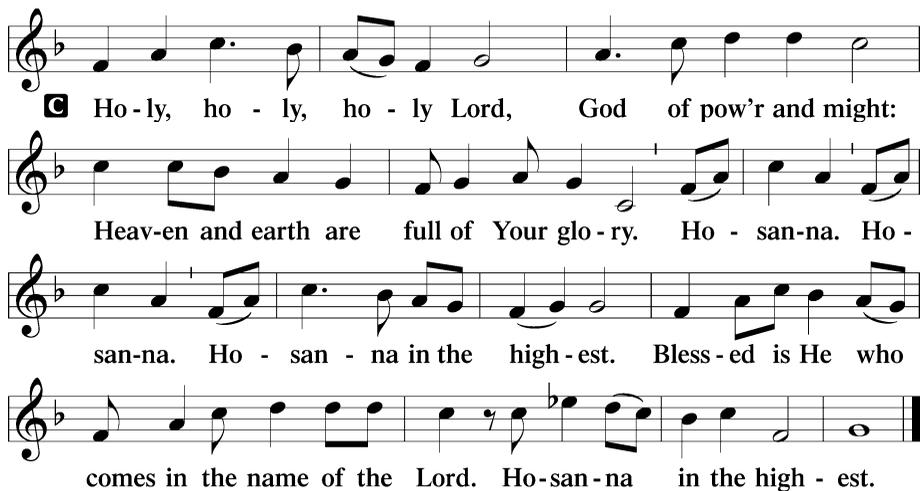
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, 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

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Holy God, holy Lord, You have made the night to shine with the greatness of the one true Light and given to us Your only Son in flesh to be our Savior. Open our hearts and minds that we receive Him whom You have sent and live in Him by faith. Grant that we reflect the brightness of His appearing and live as witnesses to His saving glory, doing the good You desire and avoiding the evil You forbid. Give to us Your Holy Spirit, that nothing prevents our worthy communion this night of His holy body and precious blood. Help us to show forth our faith in lives of repentance, seeking that which is good and right and true in accordance with Your Word and promise. To You, Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, praise and worship, now and to the end of the ages.

C 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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Praise to You, O Lord, for having kept Your Word and bestowing upon us the unmistakable sign of Your favor by giving us Your only Son. Grant to us faith that we daily acknowledge His goodness and live out fully the promise of our Baptism, doing the good You desire and avoiding the evil You forbid. In the fullness of time, bring us at last into Your eternal presence, where we shall be gathered before Your throne of grace forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Through Him, with Him, and in Him, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C 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.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB 361

VOLUNTARY

"All is Well"
"O Christ-Child Sweet"
"Manger Lullabies"

arr. B. Johnson
arr. E. Lorenz
arr. S. Scott

Stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

1 John 1:5–7; Matthew 5:14–16

The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the acolytes and assisting ministers. They pass the light on to the congregation.

P As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, the Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

G If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

G and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

John 1:14

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen! Glory to God in the highest! And peace to His people on earth!

HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

LSB 363 vs. 1-3

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

A Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Messiah Medley"

arr. B. Johnson

PARTICIPATING IN THIS SERVICE

Pastor: Rev. Richard Willsea

Deaconess: Karen Suter

Organist: Patty Barnes

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Co.; Toccata on "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"- tune: God Rest You,

Traditional English Carol; arr. D. Wagner(c. 2018 Lorenz Publishing Co.; "The Shepherd's Song"- F. Murschauser, arr. D. Hustad ©1982 Hope Publishing Co.;

"Yuletide Joyeux"- C. Penfield (inspired by early French carol) "On Christmas Night all Christians Sing"- tune: Sussex Carol, Traditional English Melody, arr. D. Anderson

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Inc; "O Christ-Child Sweet" , tune: O Jesulein Suss, Early German carol, arr. E. Lorenz ©

1974 Lorenz Publishing Co.; "Manger Lullabies"- Traditional French Noel, arr. S. Scott

© 1999 Lorenz Publishing Co.; "Messiah Medley"- G.F. Handel, arr. B. Johnson

© 1992 Word Music; "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"- tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY, Polish carol

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