

December 25, 2021

Christmas Day



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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+
Worship:

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Adult Bible Study &
Sunday School:

9:30 am
(Grace Hall)

+
Pastor:
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:
Karen Suter

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2021

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE

"I Saw Three Ships"

arr. D. Wood

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

arr. D. Schack

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB 358 sts. 1-4



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

INVOCATION

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

G Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** **Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we Your people confess our sins with contrite hearts. We are by nature sinful and separated from You. We live sin-filled lives, transgressing Your Law in thought, word, and deed. We repent of our sins and beseech Your great forgiveness. By the power of the Holy Spirit within us, direct us so that we may amend our sinful lives and joyfully walk in ways of love and peace to Your glory.**
- P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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.**

† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

HYMN

“God Loves Me Dearly”

LSB 392



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, we rejoice at Your birth, which brings us reconciliation with God and fulfills the promises of God's good will towards His fallen creation. We welcome You, Jesus, as the Savior of the world and the Lord of our hearts, for You live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS LITANY

Psalm 118:27a; 2:7; 111:9; 132:11b

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

C **The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.**

P The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."

C **He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.**

P One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.

C **Christ the Lord, our Savior, everlasting God and Mary's Son, we praise You evermore.**

HYMN

"O Sing of Christ"

LSB 362



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

- 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.
- ³ 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.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 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.
 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

P The Epistle is from Titus, the second chapter.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GRADUAL

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

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.
Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

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.

Sit
HYMN "Away in a Manger" **LSB 365**



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 bright 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.

SERMON

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 As we rejoice in Your blessings, Lord, we bring You our prayers this day. We remember Your many acts of kindness to Your people and thank You for the grace shown to all people through the birth of Your Son. Grant Your Holy Spirit to bless us with peace in this holy season. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the world in which we live and for all people everywhere. Enable us to be witnesses to the Good News of salvation, echoing the great tidings shared by the heavenly host. Cause the truth of the Gospel to be known in every part of the earth. Bless the labors of missionaries and local pastors and church workers in every place as we join in worship and praise with them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P On this blessed day, we pray for our towns and cities and for rural areas, asking that the Prince of Peace be welcomed everywhere among us. Grant Your Holy Spirit to direct us, that the light of Christ in the manger shine brightly among us and through us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for those with special needs at this time, including the sick and shut-in, those who grieve, those who feel alone in this season, and all others who are in need of our petitions. According to Your tender mercy, Lord, attend to those who call to You, and be their source of hope and comfort. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of time and eternity, we thank You for the faithful witness of those who are no longer among us on earth and who now rejoice in Your eternal glory. Grant that we find inspiration and strength in the witness of those who have preceded us by faith into eternity, and by Your Spirit, guide us to serve You constantly all our earthly days. Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Carol of the Bells"

M. Leontovich

Stand

OFFERTORY

"What Child Is This"

LSB 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.**

PROPER PREFACE

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

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al -
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al -

might - y! Day and night we join to praise Your
might - y! We re-joice to join the hymns Of

love and maj - es - ty. You a - lone are
earth and sky and sea. Gen - er - a - tions

ho - ly, wor - thy, and righ - teous.
praise You, with saints and an - gels.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Ho - ly and bless'd through all e - ter - ni - ty.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 434



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had de-spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had de-spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had de-spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer-cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Have mer-cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"A Great and Mighty Wonder"

LSB 383



1 A great and might-y won-der, A full and ho-ly cure:
 2 The Word be-comes in-car-nate And yet re-mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon-arch, Those bright an-gel-ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran-som, By all be He a-dored,
 5 All i-dols then shall per-ish And Sa-tan's ly-ing cease,



The vir-gin bears the in-fant With vir-gin hon-or pure!
 And cher-u-bim sing an-thems To shep-herds from the sky.
 Re-joice, O vales and moun-tains, And o-ceans, clap your hands.
 The in-fant born in Beth-l'em, The Sav-ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep-ter, De-cre-e-ing end-less peace.

Refrain



Pro-claim the Sav-ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo-ry And peace to all the earth!"

VOLUNTARY

"Lo, How a Rose"

arr. E. Lewis

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have given us grace at this time to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We bless You for all Your mercies,

which are renewed each and every day in Christ. As we have now feasted in Your presence and at Your bidding once again, help us to show forth Your praise in joyful obedience to Your loving will; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

CHRISTMAS LITANY

John 1:14a; Luke 19:38a; Isaiah 9:6a; Luke 2:14

P The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

C **Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!**

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

C **Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased. Alleluia!**

HYMN

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing;
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

PRAYER

P Let us pray.

O God, our heavenly Father, give us grace to keep this festival of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, with pure faith and holy love, that while we join our voices with the voices of those who sang, "Glory to God in the highest," we also join our voices

with those of the shepherds and all others who spread abroad the Gospel of Your peace and good will toward all people; through Jesus Christ, the babe of Bethlehem and our loving Savior.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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.

HYMN

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LSB 388

Refrain



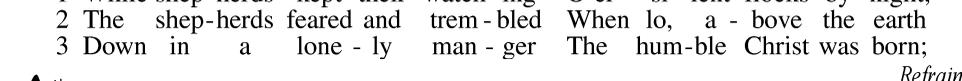
Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

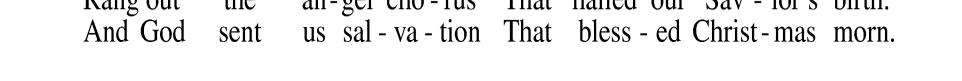


2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth



3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

A Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

arr. R. Thygerson

PARTICIPATING IN THIS SERVICE

Pastor: Richard Willsea

Organist: Patty Barnes

Deaconess: Karen Suter

Acknowledgments

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