

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2023

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper...*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church 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 you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"
"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

arr. G. Martin
setting: D. Cherwien

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB 380



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!



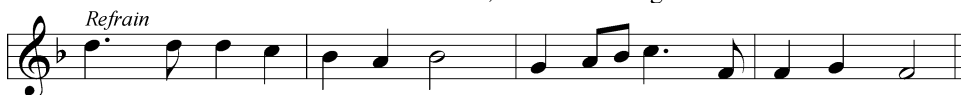
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



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.



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

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come,
- C** and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
- C** those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
- P** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
- C** has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us come before our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

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

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** Almighty God, heavenly Father, we poor sinners plead guilty before You of all

sins. We are by nature sinful people. Time and again, we have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered most. We have not honored the name of the Lord Jesus, the newborn King whose birth we celebrate this day, as we should. We have not walked in the brightness of Your light. Our thoughts and desires have been stained by sin. We are sorry for all of these our transgressions, and we ask for Your grace. It is our sincere desire to do better in our lives.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. 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 ✠

INTROIT

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

C and His name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

C **The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

P He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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.



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
 Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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

C **Amen.**

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of him who brings good news,
 who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
 who publishes salvation,
 who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
 together they sing for joy;
 for eye to eye they see
 the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
 you waste places of Jerusalem,
 for the LORD has comforted his people;
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations,
 and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM, **I** Font side, **II**, Pulpit side

Psalm 2

C Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

I *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed, saying,*

II *"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."*

I *He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, "As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill."*

II *I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.*

I *"You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."*

II *Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.*

I *Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.*

II *Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled.*

C Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

HYMN

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB 358 sts. 1, 3-4

1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
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
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:
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 1:1-12

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he

appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

¹²like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
C **and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

P And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P Sing to the Lord a new song,
C **for He has done marvelous things!**

Stand

VERSE

John 1:14

P Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
C **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.**

HYMN

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

LSB 389 st. 1

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
C **Glory You, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not

overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

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!

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 Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all people according to their needs, confidently bringing our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our light and our salvation.

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, O Lord God Almighty, that when darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, You provided a Savior, able to help, and strong to deliver.

C Praise to You, O God!

A Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, that You gave Your eternal Son to become incarnate, that through Him light and pardon, power and peace, life and eternal salvation, might come to the fallen and lost children of men.

C Praise to You, O God!

P Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be unto You, that by the holy nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ we, who by sin were driven out of the earthly paradise, are begotten again to a new Kingdom and to an endless paradise in heaven.

C Praise to You, O God!

A God of all mercy, let it please You to add grace to grace; and as You have given Your Son to be our Redeemer, pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit, that with pure hearts we may celebrate His birth, and with joyful devotion welcome Him. Grant we ask You, O Lord, that the good tidings of great joy in which we rejoice this day may everywhere be known. Bless the Church throughout the world that it may faithfully prosper in all things. Guide the rulers of nations that pathways of peace may be found. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer!

P Grant the needs of all people be met according to Your good and gracious will. Grant that the ill and those burdened by many cares find respite from their

challenges. Grant that those who sorrow this day look up to Your throne and find abundant consolation in Him who came to ransom us from every fear and every foe. Send the joy of Your salvation into all penitent and burdened souls, that they may rejoice and give glory to God that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer!

A Help, defend, and keep us all, through Him who was born at Bethlehem, so that when He comes in glorious majesty to complete our redemption we may have our perfect fulfillment and joy in His eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose blessed name we make all of our prayers.

C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"

arr. D. Wagner

Stand

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me"

LSB 956

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.

✠ 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; by whose birth in the flesh as the Savior from sin You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy 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 Blessed are You, sovereign Lord, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus, into our flesh to be our Savior. We thank You that He has been born as a King and yet as One who comes to serve and bring salvation. We bless You for calling us to repentance and inviting us to receive the gifts that He alone can bestow. Grant that with true thankfulness we may approach His Table of grace there to receive His body and blood and through them the priceless gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We ask this in His saving name.

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."

P 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."

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.**

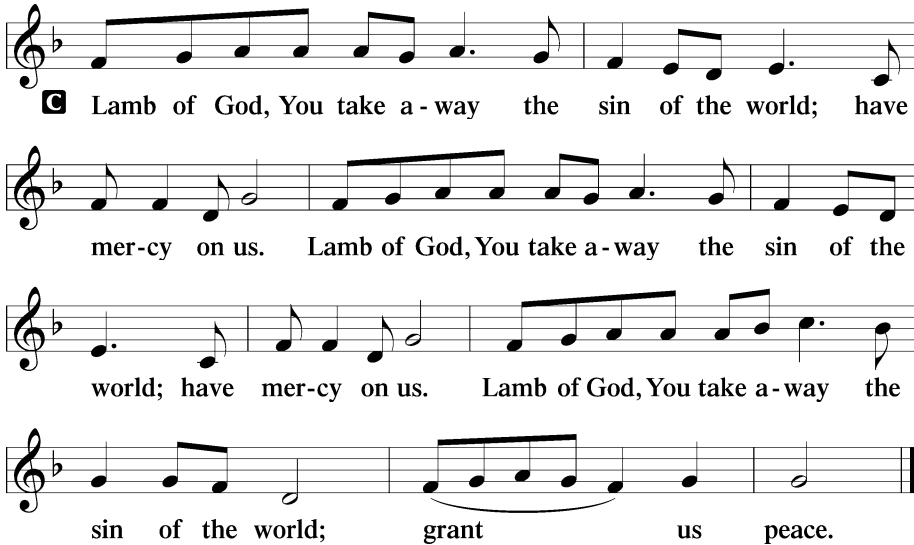
PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



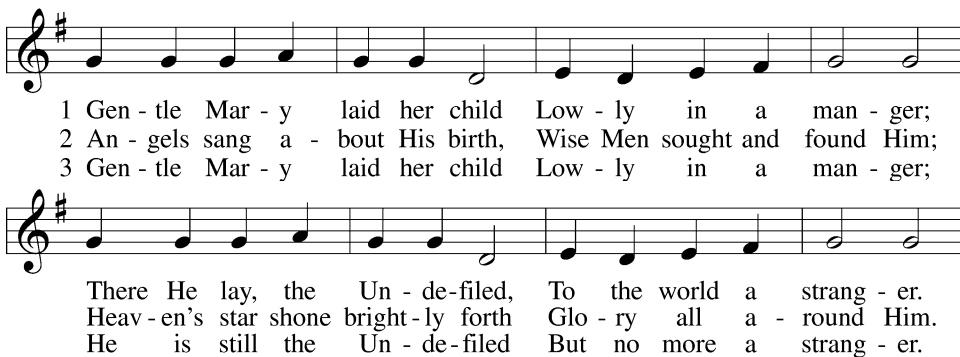
C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

VOLUNTARY

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"
 "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

arr. K. Christopher
 arr. D. Wells

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 165



Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



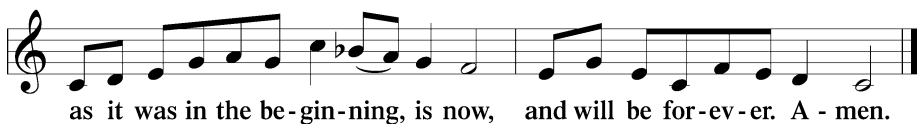
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have gathered us together at Your Table and refreshed us through this Sacrament. Keep us, we pray, in Your faith and favor that we live for You and be fit temples for the Holy Spirit. Grant that the body and blood of our blessed Lord preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Jesus our Savior, who has come to earth in the flesh and now lives and reigns in glory with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

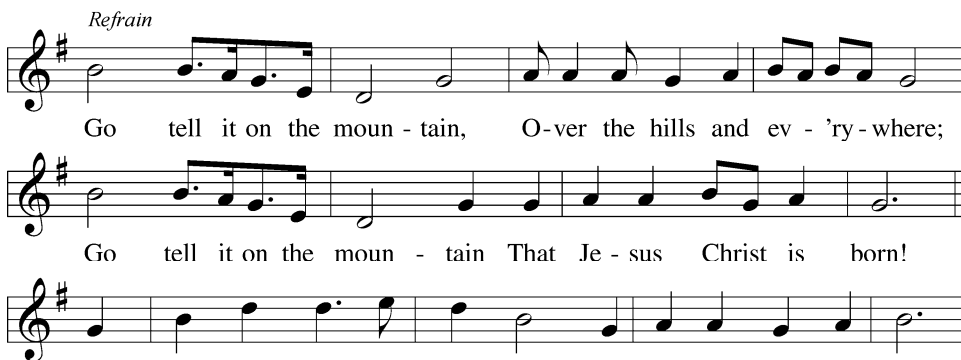
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

HYMN

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LSB 338



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;



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

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

arr. R. Thygerson

Acknowledgements

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.

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