



✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

Divine Service, Setting Two

As We Gather

“All is calm, all is bright.” Is it really? We sing those words from the hymn “Silent Night, Holy Night” every Christmas Eve. Yet the world in which we live is in so many ways neither calm nor bright. War, violence, shootings, unending anxiety: these are anything but calm and bright. Yet we sing. Why? Because the calmness and brightness of which we sing on Christmas Eve comes not from politics or laws or humanity’s ability to overcome obstacles; it comes from God. “Glory to God in the highest,” sings the multitude of angels to the shepherds, “and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14). In Christ, we are given peace beyond human understanding, peace flowing from God to us, peace that comes from God’s self-sacrificing love. So filled with hope, we join the angel chorus and sing of the peace found only in Jesus.

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
“To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
“My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Confession and Absolution

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.

- 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** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text

- P** When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.
- C** **Why do the | nations rage*
and the peoples | plot in vain?**
- P** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against his a- | noointed.
- C** **He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.**
- P** Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,
- C** **“As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.”**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**
- P** When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

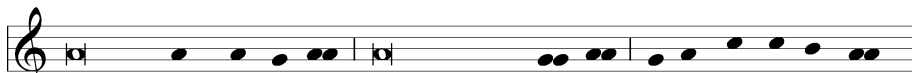
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



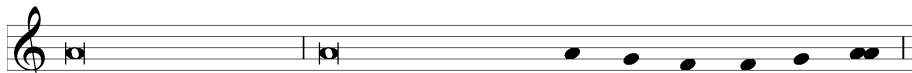
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



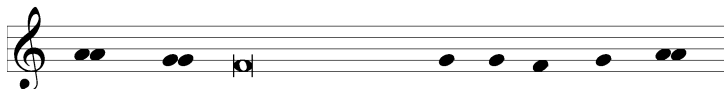
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn Of Praise

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.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.
Text and tune: French
Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

R The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 9.

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.

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.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Titus 2:11–15a

R The Epistle is from Titus, chapter 2.

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.

¹⁵Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–14

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

P 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!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

sts. 1–3, 13–15



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
 13 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child, Pre - pare a



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
 bed, soft, un - de - filed, A qui - et cham - ber



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.
 set a - part For You to dwell with - in my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
 My lips no more can silence keep.
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
 That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
 While angels sing with pious mirth
 A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

The wait is over!

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people as they have need.

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 Lord God, by His birth in human flesh, Your dear Son took His place in the family of Mary and Joseph. Bless the families of our church and our country, that men and women would live faithfully as husbands and wives, loving and caring for their children and nurturing them in the grace of Baptism and all the truth of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, Your Son born in Bethlehem is the Son of David and the Lord of David, to whom every knee shall bow. Look upon all those whom You have placed in authority, and grant that they would govern in wisdom and justice. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You love us and sent Your Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Strengthen us to love one another. As You have mercy upon all who are poor and troubled, so perfect Your love in us, that we would gladly be Your instruments of help in time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy 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 [*especially*]. Let Your presence be a comfort to them, and give them perseverance until the time You grant healing, relief, deliverance and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We thank You, dear Lord, for the saints who received Your blessing of righteousness in Christ and now stand in the most holy place before Your throne. Preserve us by Your grace in the holiness of Christ, that we, too, may dwell in Your light and life for eternity; 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

Offering

377 *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* sts. 1–3

Stand

Offertory

LSB 176

C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

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.

Collect

P Let us pray. . . O God, You make this most 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.**

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

(During the singing of the hymn, the ushers will come down the aisle with their candles lighted from the Christ candle. Please share the light with the person next to you by allowing them to dip their candle into your light. Care must be taken not to tip a lighted candle.)



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-gra-cious 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: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-76, alt.
Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900
Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction

LSB 183

- 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.

363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1-3

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-85
Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Exodus at **9am** on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am**. They are studying the Book of Deuteronomy.

Church Council next meeting is **Jan 8 at 8am**.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is at **6pm** and **Christmas Day Divine Service** is at **10am**. There will be no Sunday School that day.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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