

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

Divine Service, Setting Three

As We Gather

We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus’ coming. Yet the psalms are God’s Word during terrible times to people who lived before God’s promises were fulfilled in our Savior’s coming. This Advent we have focused on several psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord’s birth with open eyes and ears.

The traditional psalm for Christmas Eve, Psalm 110, looks forward to the Christ who would be King. The child come as a baby in a manger will reign over heaven and earth forever. Come and proclaim the Savior’s birth!

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

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

- P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 110 1, 3-4 Antiphon v.2

- P** The LORD sends forth from Zion Your mighty scepter.
 Rule in midst of Your enemies!
C **The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My | right hand,*
 until I make Your enemies Your | footstool."**
P The LORD sends forth from Zion Your mighty | scepter.*
 Rule in the midst of Your | enemies!
C **Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of Your power, in holy | garments;*
 from the womb of the morning, the dew of Your youth | will be Yours.**
P The LORD has sworn and will not | change His mind,*
 "You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek."
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 The LORD sends forth from Zion Your mighty scepter.
 Rule in midst of Your enemies!

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2-4



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,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.
 Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786
 Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

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.
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.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

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.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–14

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, 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.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.

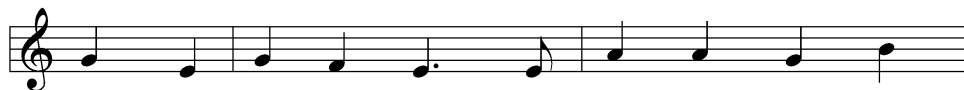
Sit

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. Valtin Schumann
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

359 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* sts. 1–2

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

C 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.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God Almighty, on this most holy night we come before You in awe at the wonder and majesty of the incarnation. The Savior of the nations has come, and with joy we greet our newborn King. Let the proclamation of His birth sound forth throughout the world. Give to Your Church faithful pastors to proclaim the good tidings of His birth, and give to Your people willing ears to hear and believe. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You sent an angel to reveal to Joseph that the Child in Mary's womb was Your own, preserving their marriage and family. Preserve our homes also by Your Holy Word. Fill them with Your grace, that husbands and wives, parents and children may live in peace and love with one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Almighty God, the One born in Bethlehem is the Son of David and the Lord of David, to whom every knee shall bow. Look upon those 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** Giver and Preserver of life, Your Son came to save us from sin and its curse. Hear the pleas of all who call to You for mercy. Deliver them from affliction according to Your will, and work in them steadfast faith to cling to the life they have in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty Father, guard in safety all emergency workers and those whose vocations keep them from their families for our well-being this evening. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Holy Lord, You promised the virgin-born Son to reluctant King Ahaz, and in the fullness of time the Word became flesh. Open our hearts and strengthen our faith gladly to receive Your Son in the signs where He is present: not in signs of our own choosing, but in the Holy Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty God, You have given Your Son, born of Mary, to be the Savior of the world. Send Your Spirit and abide with us, that we may confess Him and remain in Your love until He comes again in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

- P** 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.
- C** **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**
- 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.**

(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.)

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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93
 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
 Text and tune: Public domain

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

- P** Bless we the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



- C** A - men, a - men, a - men.

363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1-3, 1g



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,
1 Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,



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
ein - sam wacht Nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.



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
Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, Schlaf in himm - li - scher



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Ruh, Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.

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 at 9am on Sunday mornings is studying Leviticus.

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

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets next on Wednesday **Jan 3** at **10am**, studying the book of 2 Samuel.

Church Council next meeting is **Jan 14** at **8am**.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is tonight at **6pm**. **Christmas Morning Divine Service** is tomorrow at **10am**.

December has a **Fifth Sunday!** Join us for a potluck luncheon! Get your hymn ideas to Pastor Huston by Christmas Eve.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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