



✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

Divine Service, Setting One

As We Gather

One of the great pleasures of the Advent and Christmas season is the singing of hymns and carols associated with the nativity of our Lord. Many of the texts of these well-loved songs were written specifically for services in the Christmas season; others were not. “Silent Night, Holy Night” (*LSB* 363) was written to be first sung at a Christmas Eve service in Austria in 1818, and “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (*LSB* 361) was initially included as part of a children’s Christmas program at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia in 1868. But another well-loved hymn associated with Christmas was not originally a Christmas song. “Joy to the World” (*LSB* 387) was written as a paraphrase of the second half of Psalm 98 by the English hymnwriter Isaac Watts in 1719. When the text was printed as part of a collection of Psalms in English verse, he gave the song the heading “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom.” Our celebration of the coming to earth of Jesus as our Messiah and Lord gives us a great “resounding joy” that lasts all through our years as we await the fullness of His kingdom yet to come!

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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!



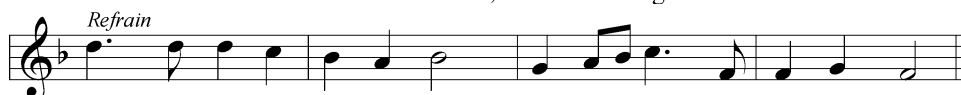
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



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!”

# 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** 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.

## Service of the Word

Introit

*Psalms 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.

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**

## 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.



*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

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.  
 Gracious God, on this blessed day, we celebrate our Lord's birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. With the company of song-filled angels in heaven and jubilant people on earth, we welcome Jesus as the Savior of the world and Lord of our hearts, who now 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
 and every garment rolled in blood  
 will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Of 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.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who 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 and Verse

*LSB 156*

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

**P** <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And 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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"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.

Sit

## 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

## Sermon

*The Song of the Angels*

*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 Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.  
Lord God Almighty, on this most holy night we wonder at the majesty of the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ. With joy we greet our newborn King, the Savior of the nations. Let Your Church throughout the world proclaim His birth. Give her faithful preachers to proclaim these glad tidings and ears to hear and believe them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Remember all families, Lord. Make each household a place of prayer and devotion to Your Word. Bless parents of young children with patience. Give comfort to the childless. Abide with the fatherless, widows and orphans, the lonely and those separated from their families. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Remember this country, O Lord. Grant our leaders wisdom and justice as they exercise Your authority to punish wrongdoers and protect the righteous. Use all citizens to speak in defense of the defenseless. Abide with those who labor on behalf of others, especially all who must work this night for our protection. Bring wars to an end, defend the innocent and bring Your healing peace to all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Heavenly Father, 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. 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** Send Your Spirit to us, O Lord, in rich measure, that all who commune may do so in true faith for their souls' well-being and strength. Let us take to heart the glad tidings of great joy that today, in bread and wine, we will receive Christ's body and blood for our forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord God, in the birth of Your Son You have called people from every time and place into His Body, the Church. We give You thanks for the believers who went before us, especially those who were with us in Christmases past and who now live with You. Grant us sure confidence in the promise of resurrection and eternal life, and bring us with them at last into Your presence; 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

358 *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* sts. 1-3

*Stand*

## Offertory

LSB 159



**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** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises we are bold 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 for Christmas Midnight

**P** 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.

## Collect for Peace

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.)*

## 370 What Child Is This



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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98  
Tune: English, 16th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## 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.



### 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

1 Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
 ein - sam wacht Nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
 Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, Schlaf in himm - li - scher  
 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

### 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

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 at 9am** on Sunday mornings is studying Deuteronomy.

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

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets on Wednesday **Jan 8 at 10am**, studying the book of 2 Kings.

**Church Council** next meeting is **Jan 12 at 8am**.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** is **Dec 24 at 6pm**. **Christmas Day Divine Service** is **Dec 25 at 10am**.

**Dec 30** is a **Fifth Sunday!** Join us for the potluck luncheon after service.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Jan 11 at 9am**.

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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