

**The Nativity of Our Lord
December 25,
Year of Our ✝ Lord 2024**



**The Living and Life-Giving Word of God
Dwells among Us in the Flesh**

In the beginning God created all things through His Word, His Son. But man fell into sin, and with man all creation was cursed. Therefore, God spoke His Word again, this time into the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary. The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle of our human nature (Ex. 40:17–21, 34–38). *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1:1–14). The Son of God took on our flesh and blood and died on the cross in order that we might receive the right to become the children of God through faith. Baptized into Christ's body, we are made partakers of a new Genesis, *"the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit"* (Titus 3:4–7). In Christ, the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man has truly appeared.



**ZION LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

**A Church of
The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod**

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✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Ring of the Bells

The congregation is invited to stand and face the cross at the back of the sanctuary.

*While singing, the congregation is invited
to follow the cross, turning as the cross passes.*

Hymn of Invocation: 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

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 O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 93:1–2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2a, 6a, c

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

To us a child is born.

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

P The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty;

the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.

C **Yes, the world is established;
it shall never be moved.**

P Your throne is established from of old;

you are from everlasting.

C **Your decrees are very trustworthy;**

holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

C 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.

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
To us a child is born.

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

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

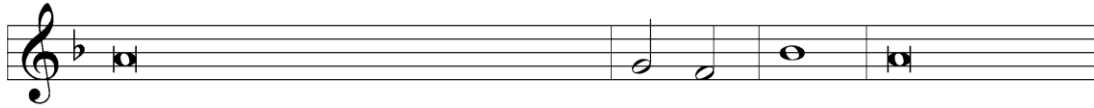
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



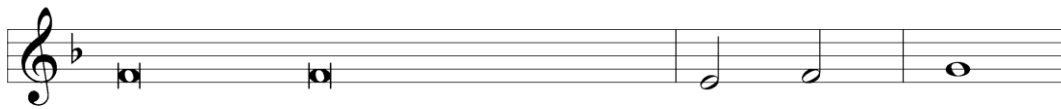
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir-it.



P Let us pray.

P Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 118:26a, 27a, 23

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

C This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

Epistle

Titus 3:4–7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P 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 2:1–20

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, 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.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene 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.**

Hymn of the Day: 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

Sermon

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 -



Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this congregation, that as the eternal light dawned on our darkness in the incarnation of God's only begotten Son, so His glory would shine on us in the grace and truth of His Word, and we would receive Him with joy and believe in His name, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all pastors, that through their proclamation of Christ, God would bring the good news of joy and salvation to all who hear them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who suffer persecution for the sake of Christ, that though oppression should seek to quench His light in them, they would be sustained in the truth that the darkness cannot overcome Him, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For families who gather in this holy season, that they may have patience and be slow to judge and quick to forgive, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the lonely, that they may be comforted with Christ's presence and we may extend to them the welcome of our homes and the friendship of His grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those in poverty or want, that they may be helped; that God would increase our generosity; and that we would present our bodies as living sacrifices, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and those who suffer in our midst, [*especially* _____,] that they may be healed according to the good purposes of our incarnate Savior; and for the

grieving, that they may receive comfort in the Babe of Bethlehem, who was born that the dead might live, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who commune, that they would receive the body and blood of Jesus worthily with faith in His bodily presence; and that they would depart having received grace upon grace from His fullness, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Joining in heaven's eternal praise for the revelation of Your love in Your Word made flesh, we boldly lay all our petitions before You, dear Father, trusting that You will hear us for His sake, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



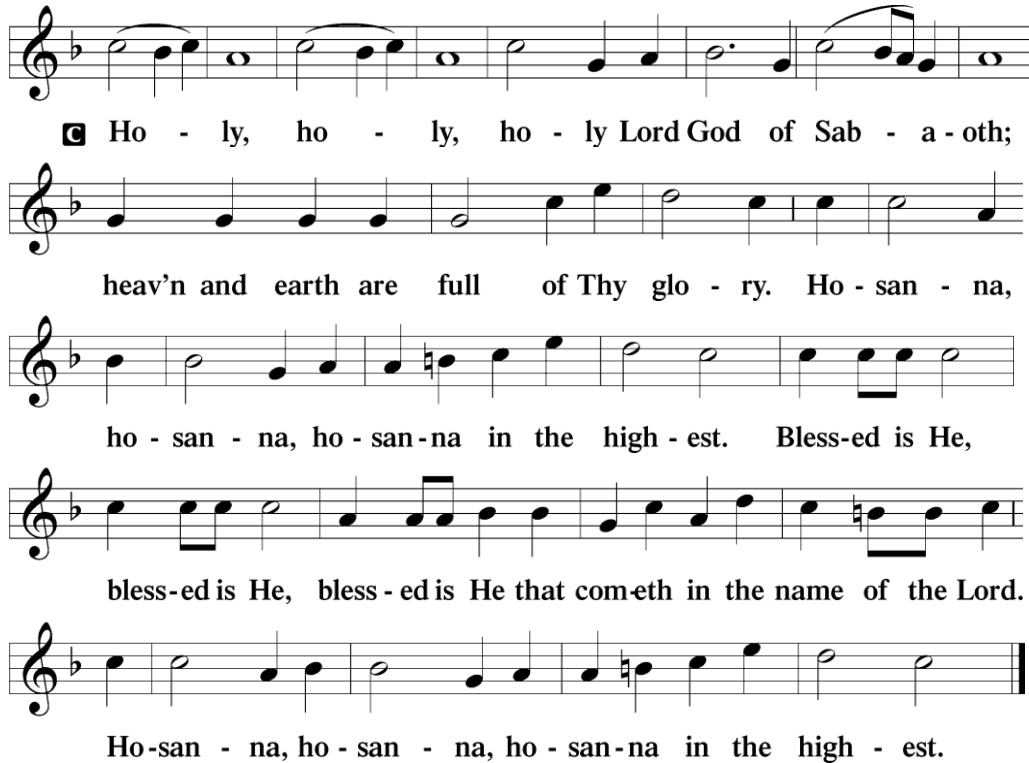
C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, 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

LSB 195



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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 Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

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."

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution

Those participating in communion are asked to exit the pew on the outer aisle.

When coming forward to receive communion we ask that 7 people from each side approach the altar. The Chalice and Individual Cups are offered at the Supper; you can specify which cup you would like to receive from. Please exit down the center aisle, placing your cup in the basket near the font.

Distribution Hymn: 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



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!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933 Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 373 See amid the Winter's Snow



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
 2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
 3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
 4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
 He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
 Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
 Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Tune: John Goss, 1800–80 Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



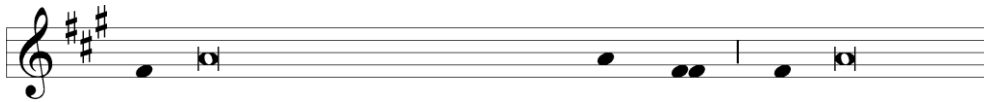
A Bless we the Lord.



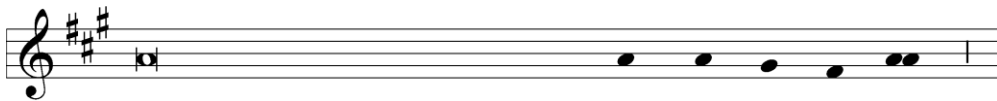
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

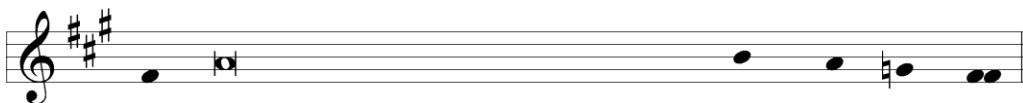
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



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

Hymn to Depart: 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

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Threer from Lutheran Service Book

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