

# St. John's Lutheran Church & School



Christmas Eve

24 December 2023

## **WELCOME - TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER!**

For baptized Christians (Matthew 28:19) who have been instructed in the faith (Galatians 6:6), The Lord's Supper is our participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16), as the one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17), to receive forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28) and to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

So that those who partake of the Lord's Supper do so in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27) and not to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:29), let us each examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28):

- Do you believe that you are a sinner? That you have sinned in thought, word and deed?
- Are you sorry for your sin?
- Do you trust that Jesus Christ gives forgiveness of sin through His Supper?
- Do you believe that the body and blood of Jesus are present in, with and under the bread and wine?
- Do you seek to lead godly lives by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Please speak to a pastor or usher if you have questions. Gluten-free wafers are provided upon request. Non-alcoholic grape juice is provided in the center of each communion tray. Those who are not communing may come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

### **As We Gather**

The days and weeks preceding Christmas are full of hustle and bustle for many. Between parties and shopping, cooking and baking, wrapping and card writing, along with many more things, we are occupied and busy as we anticipate this night and the assured joy to come celebrating the Savior born for us. Over two thousand years ago, though, that wasn't the case. Nobody was prepared for what was to take place. Yet everything soon changed in that little town of Bethlehem. Quietly, unexpectedly, even "like a thief in the night" was born in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, our Lord. Tonight we gather amid the busyness to reflect, rejoice, and ponder anew the joy of our Savior born and to prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gifts ever given and received by and through Him—hope, forgiveness, newness, and an assured promise of eternal life through faith in Him.

### **Prelude**

***"In the Bleak Midwinter"***

*Dan Forrest*

## 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

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## **Invocation**

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

## **Exhortation**

*LSB 151*

- 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.**

*Kneel/Sit*

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

## **Confession of Sins**

*LSB 151*

- 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.**

## **Absolution**

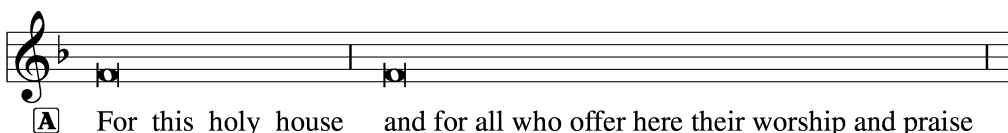
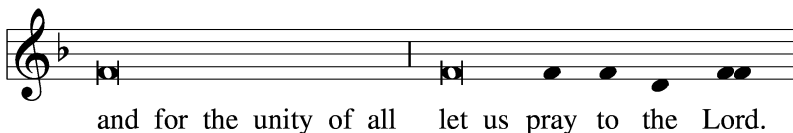
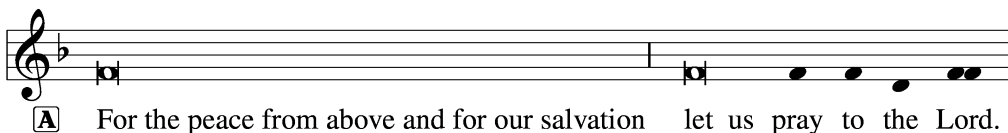
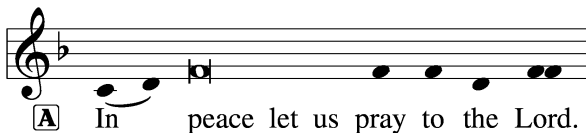
*LSB 151*

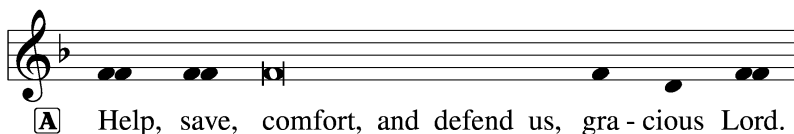
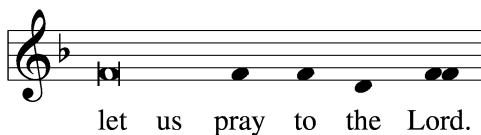
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

*Stand*

# Kyrie

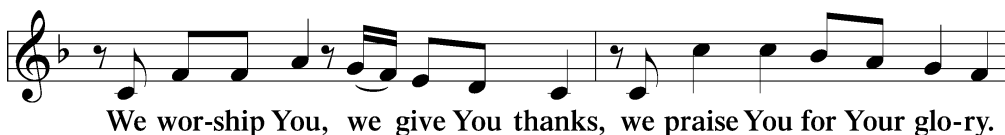
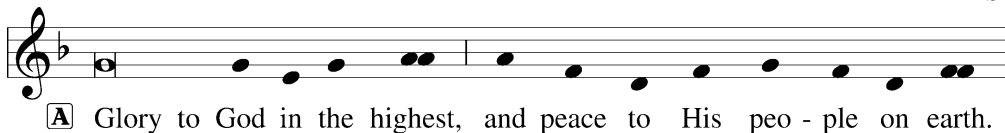
LSB 152





## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### 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 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.**

**Old Testament Reading***Isaiah 9:2–7*

- A 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.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**



## Psalm 96



- A <sup>1</sup>Oh sing to the LORD a | new song;\*  
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!
- C <sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, | bless his name;\*  
tell of his salvation from | day to day.
- A <sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the | nations,\*  
his marvelous works among all the | peoples!
- C <sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised;\*  
he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.
- A <sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are worthless | idols,\*  
but the LORD made the | heavens.
- C <sup>6</sup>Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him;\*  
strength and beauty are in his sanctu- | ary.
- A <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the | peoples,\*  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength!
- C <sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\*  
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!
- A <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness,\*  
tremble before him, | all the earth!

- C <sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!  
 Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;\*  
 he will judge the peoples with equity."
- A <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;\*  
 let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
<sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it!
- C **Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**  
<sup>13</sup>**before the LORD, for he comes,\***  
**for he comes to judge the earth.**
- A He will judge the world in righteousness,\*  
 and the peoples in his faithfulness.

## Epistle

*Titus 2:11–14*

- A 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.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.  
 C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



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.

The image shows two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the'. The second staff continues with 'words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' and ends with a double bar line.

## Holy Gospel

**Luke 2:1-14**

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### 385 From East to West

1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry  
 2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and  
 3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,  
 4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -  
 △ 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the

heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom  
 fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our  
 in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -  
 bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the  
 Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O

Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.  
 mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.  
 yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.  
 Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.  
 Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Ellerton, 1826-93, alt.  
 Tune: Geistliche lieder, 1539, Leipzig, ed. Valtin Schumann  
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

*"Looking Upward on Christmas Eve"*

*Pastor Stapleton*



*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**C 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 **T** of the world to come. Amen.**

*Kneel/Sit*

## Prayer of the Church

*Response: Hear our prayer*

*Sit*

## Offering

### "A Christmas Roundelay"

*Austin Lovelace*

*Stand*

## 393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:

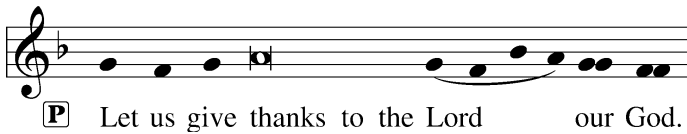
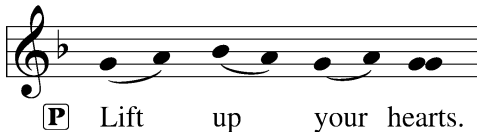
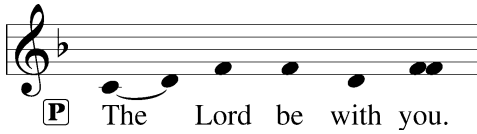


Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.  
Text and tune: Polish  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Preface

LSB 160

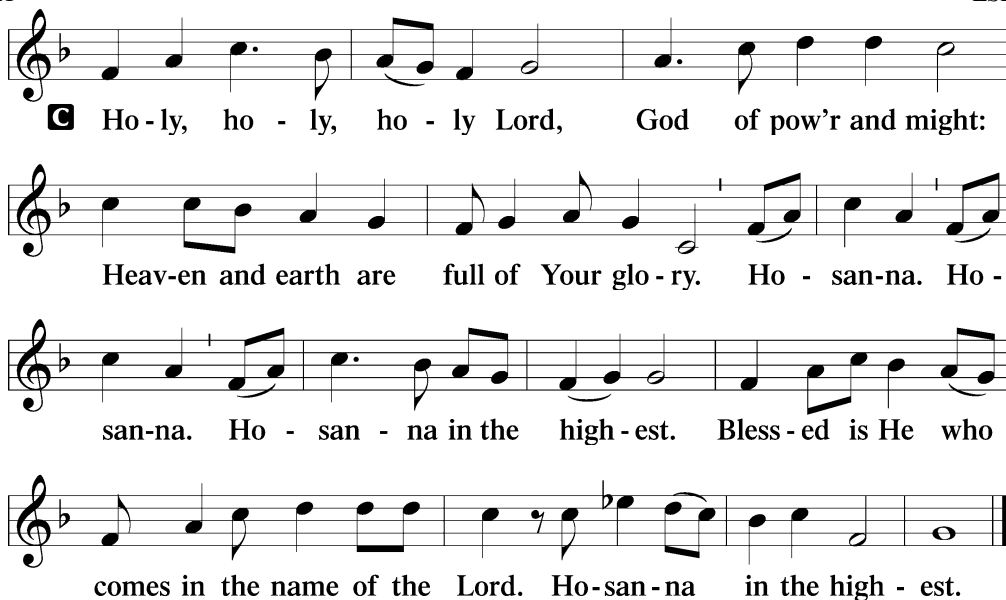


## Proper Preface (Full)

**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, 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 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

LSB 161

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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

*All may share a sign of God's peace*

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*

## Music During Distribution

### *"Song of Christmas"*

*Esther Mary Fuller*

### *"The Hands that First Held Mary's Child"*

*Dan Forrest*

## The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve  
you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.  
C **Amen.**

Stand

## Thank the Lord

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** 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** Amen.

## Lighting of the Worshipper's Candles

*Candles are extinguished after singing Silent Night*

### 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, born! Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 birth, Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 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

### Benediction

*LSB 166*

- 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 **T** give you peace.  
**C** **Amen.**

### 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



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

## Announcements

## Postlude

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## Serving in Worship

**Homilist:** Rev. Mark Stapleton

**Liturgist:** Rev. Ronald Weidler

**Clarinet:** Mrs. Dalayne Shinneman

**Piano:** Mr. Dana Shinneman

**Vocal Soloist:** Mrs. Kristen Stapleton

**Trumpeter:** Mr. Mark Olen

**Director of Music:** Mr. Gregory Ceurvorst

## Flowers

*at the altar are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Christ's birth.*



**The Altar Guild would like to thank all who purchased poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary in celebration of Jesus' birth this Christmas!**

Given to the Glory of God for Blessings Received

Jeff Baker and Beth Zeiter  
Don and Kathy Bezek  
Amy Buonassisi  
Marie A. Fukar  
Harlan and Judy Hirt  
Ron and Ruth Gallman  
Jack and Jeannette Nord

Given To the Glory of God:

Sharon Broz  
Marie A. Fukar  
Ron and Ruth Gallman  
Ralph and Chris Kirchenberg  
Chris Hubacek  
Marjorie Newpher  
Mary Newren  
Art Schroeder

Given to the Glory of God in memory of loved ones:

In memory of Victor Ayala, Chuck Kline, Gaby Ronces, and Javier Castellanos, from the Flores and Kline Families

In memory of Ken Fukar, Ken Adams, and Julia Fukar, from Marie A. Fukar

In memory of our son, Ron Gallman, Jr.; our parents, Karl and Ethel Stodden, and Henry and Duean Gallman; and the rest of our family and friends celebrating in heaven with our Lord, from Ron and Ruth Gallman

In memory of Ann and George Hubacek and Faith Knight from Chris Hubacek

In memory of John D. and Mary A. Mark; Benjamin and Bernice Pilarczyk; and loving husband and father David J. Pilarczyk, from Nancy and Benjamin Pilarczyk

In memory of Bob and Shirley Pyritz, and William Pyritz, from Joann Pyritz  
In loving memory of Pastor David Smith from Marnie Smith and Family



Equipping ♦ Engaging ♦ Encouraging

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