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December 24, 2024

The Nativity of Our Lord

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## Prelude

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

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.**

*Isaiah 9:2*

You are my lamp, O Lord,

**And my God lightens my darkness.**

*2 Samuel 22:29*

## Confession and Absolution

The apostle Paul reminds us, “You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

*Romans 13:11–12*

In order to hear again the beautiful Good News of how the Savior of the world came to save us all, let us confess our need to hear, to repent of our sin and to believe.

**Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, I confess to You once again this night that I have walked in the darkness of sin, that I have sinned in the shadows of my conscience and in words and actions toward others; all of it in disobedience to Your commands. I pray You to send forth the light and truth of Your Son, my Savior. Have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.** *A Time of Silence*

The Lord sends out His light and His truth to find you and to save you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. 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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- ♪ O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
- ♪ For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
- ♪ How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav’n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

♪ O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 361 -Text: Phillips Brooks 1835-93; Tune: Lewis H. Redner 1831-1908;  
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light,  
Jesus Christ. 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. Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

♪ O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:

~O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

♪ Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,...

♪ Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest: ~O come,...

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 379-Text & Tune: John F. Wade c.1711-86; tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80;  
Setting: The Hymnal 1940; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

<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 shone.

<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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Handbell Choir (6:00)

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

### The Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

<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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual Hymn

“What Child Is This”

- ♪ What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 370-Text: William C. Dix 1837-98; Tune: English 16<sup>th</sup> cent.;  
Setting: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

### Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Luke 2:1–20

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<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 great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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!”

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Nicene Creed

**Solo** (6:00) *Please Be Seated*

“Mary, Did You Know?”

## The Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

♪ Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

~Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

♪ Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! ~Hark!...

♪ Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. ~Hark!....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 380 -Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn 1809-47;  
Setting: William H. Cummings 1831-1915; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Proclamation of the Word

“Light in the Darkness of Our Hearts”

Isaiah 9:2–7

## Offering and Musical Offering

**Preface** *Please Stand*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

### Sanctus

*Music: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", Hymn 366*

- ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, Almighty, Heavenly King.  
Heaven and earth Your glory fills; Hosannas, loud we sing.  
Blessed is He who comes to us in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the high'st, sing; Hosanna to our King!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Lord's Prayer

### Words of Our Lord

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Amen.**

### Agnus Dei

*Music: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", Hymn 366*

- ♪ O Lamb of God, You take away the world's sin, We pray.  
O Lamb of God, You take away the world's sin, We pray.  
O Lamb of God, You take away the world's sin, We pray.  
Have mercy on us all, We pray And grant us peace, today.

### Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

- ♪ Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
~Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.  
♪ Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? ~Glo-ria...  
♪ Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. ~Glo-ria....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 368-Text: French, tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London 1862  
Tune: French, setting: Edward S. Barnes 1887-1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

*"Away in a Manger"*

- ♪ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
♪ The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.  
♪ Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 364-Text: Little Children's Book, Philadelphia 1885, vv. 1-2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville 1892, v.3  
Tune: James R. Murray 1841-1905; setting: Joseph Herl b.1959; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## **Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand*

Lord, in Your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

**Amen.**

*Numbers 6:24–26*

## **Recessional Hymns** *Please Be Seated*

“Joy to the World”

♪ Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

♪ Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

♪ No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

♪ He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 387-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: George Frideric Handel 1685-1759;*

*Setting: Lowell Mason 1792-1872; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

♪ Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

♪ Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

♪ Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 363-Text: Franz Joseph Mohr 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young 1820-85;*

*Tune: Franz Xavier Gruber 1787-1863; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## **Postlude**