

Christmas Eve
Divine Service Setting 3

December 24th
6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.
- 4 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!

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✠ SERVICE OF PREPARATION ✠

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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

☩ SERVICE OF THE WORD ☩

INTROIT *(Ps. 2:1-2, 4-6; antiphon: Liturgical text)*



L: 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?
“As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.”**

GLORIA PATRI

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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.

(Please sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

LSB 363

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.

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EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Ps. 95:1a, 6b)

C: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

L: Oh come, let us sing | to the Lord.

Let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord,
our | Maker!

C: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

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

C: Glory 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.

¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And 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.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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 ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Please sit)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

- 1 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 the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

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

- 2 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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*
- 3 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. *Refrain*

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SERMON

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

OFFERTORY

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

(Please sit as the altar is prepared for Holy Communion)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please stand)*

✠ **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT** ✠

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary....., evermore praising You
and saying:

SANCTUS

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He,

blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**C: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world;**

have mercy upon us.

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world,**

have mercy upon us.

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world;**

grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Please sit)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

LSB 375

- 1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.
- 2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.
- 3 Jacob's star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.
- 4 From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.
- 5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

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“What Child Is This”

LSB 370

- 1 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!
- 2 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!
- 3 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!

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“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!
- 3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father’s grace divine.
Death was reigning o’er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav’nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav’nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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After all have communed

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen
and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
Depart in ☩ peace.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

C: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory
of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: and His mercy endureth forever.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness,
who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the
flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us
pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to
forsake Your Children but always to rule our hearts and minds
by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to
serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

C: Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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: Amen, amen, amen.

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

*In order to assist with social distancing an usher will dismiss
by rows. Please take your bulletin with you or throw it away
(no return bulletins).*

Servants of the Word

Mr. David Witt, Cantor

Dr. Phil Hesterman, Organist

Rev. Micah Gaunt, Officiant

The House of Christmas

by G. K. Chesterton

There fared a mother driven forth
Out of an inn to roam;
In the place where she was homeless
All men are at home.
The crazy stable close at hand,
With shaking timber and shifting sand,
Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
Than the square stones of Rome.

For men are homesick in their homes,
And strangers under the sun,
And they lay their heads in a foreign land
Whenever the day is done.

Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
And chance and honour and high surprise,
But our homes are under miraculous skies
Where the yule tale was begun.

A child in a foul stable,
Where the beasts feed and foam;
Only where He was homeless
Are you and I at home;
We have hands that fashion and heads that know,
But our hearts we lost--how long ago!
In a place no chart nor ship can show
Under the sky's dome.

This world is wild as an old wife's tale,
And strange the plain things are,
The earth is enough and the air is enough
For our wonder and our war;
But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings
And our peace is put in impossible things
Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings
Round an incredible star.

To an open house in the evening
Home shall all men come,
To an older place than Eden
And a taller town than Rome.
To the end of the way of the wandering star,
To the things that cannot be and that are,
To the place where God was homeless
And all men are at home.



Today we celebrate the Sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ's true body and true blood. Reception of the Lord's Supper expresses not only fellowship with the Lord, but also fellowship and agreement with the teaching of the pastor and congregation. We want to express our sincere welcome to our guests and assure them that out of care for each person and a desire to be faithful to God's Word we follow the biblical practice of closed communion. **All guests are kindly asked to please speak with Pastor Gaunt before communing at our altar.** Normally, people from churches in fellowship with the LCMS, are welcome to partake. Those not communing, who so desire, may come to the altar to receive a blessing. So that the pastor knows you desire a blessing please cross your arms over your chest. Please pray with us that we might all be truly united in the teaching of our Lord's precious word. (For further study: 1 Cor. 11:17-34; Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 6:26-29.)