



CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
SERVICE

December 24, 2022

**Regarding Membership and the Holy Communion**

We believe that, in the Holy Communion, the bread is truly Christ's Body and the wine is truly His Blood, given to us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive this gift individually, we profess that we are truly one body in Christ—that we are united in one faith and teaching (doctrine). Ordinarily, full participation in this Holy Communion is reserved for those who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *Any visitors or guests who desire to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ are asked to please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service.*

**Opening Hymn**      *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*      **359**

**Invocation, Confession & Absolution**

**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.**

**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 deserve 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** ... in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Entrance Psalm**

*Liturgical Text*



*When all was still, and it was | midnight,\*  
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.*

**Gloria Patri**

*LSB pg. 186*

**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**

*LSB pg. 186*

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

**Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB pgs. 186-189*

**P** *Glory be to God on high:*

**C** *and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.*

*We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.*

*O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;*

*O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,*

*that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.*

*Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have  
mercy upon us.*

*For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.*

*Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,*

*art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with your 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.**

**Hymn**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**361**

## First Lesson

*Micah 5:2-4*

<sup>2</sup> 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.  
<sup>3</sup> Therefore 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.  
<sup>4</sup> And 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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

*from Isaiah 9*



*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.*

*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.***

*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 | righteousness\**  
***from this time forth and for- | evermore.***

## Second Lesson

*1 John 4:7-16*

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and  
whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone  
who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In  
this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent

his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia**

*LSB pg. 190*

**C** *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2:1–20*

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

**C** **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 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!”

<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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Sermon Hymn**      *O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is*      **372**

**Sermon**      “God in a Box”

**Nicene Creed**      *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

**The Prayers**

**Offering**

**Offertory**      *LSB pgs. 192-193*

**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.*

**The Preface**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

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

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**  
**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary [...] evermore praising  
 You and saying:

**Sanctus** *LSB pg. 195*

- C** *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
 heav'n 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.*

**The Lord's Prayer** *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

**The Consecration**

**Pax Domini**

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

**Agnus Dei** *LSB pg. 198*

- 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.*

**Communion Hymns**

- God Loves Me Dearly* **392**  
*What Child Is This* **370**

**Nunc Dimittis** *LSB pgs. 199-200*

- C** *Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace accord-  
 ing 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 & Benediction

**P** Let us pray... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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

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

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give ☩ you peace.

**C** Amen.

Closing Hymn

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

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CHRIST  
SAVIOR  
is BORN!