



*Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2023*

*“Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright”
Silent and calm, until a newborn wails
and angels illumine the fields! Holy indeed.*

Merry Christmas, and welcome to worship!

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.

Gloria Patri

3

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

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.
³ 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.
⁴ 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

Isaiah 9:2-7



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

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and
whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone
who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So 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 (Sung Responses)

Luke 2:1–20

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. 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.

C *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

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

Sermon

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 (Sung)

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 good and right so to do.*

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 (Sung)

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

<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	361
<i>What Child Is This</i>	370
<i>God Loves Me Dearly</i>	392

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 (Sung)

P *O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good.*

C *And his mercy endureth forever.*

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 thy spirit.*

P *Bless we 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, amen, amen.*

Closing Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

363

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.



*Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV