



Christmas Day Divine Service
December 25, 2023



Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches

Pastor John Henry

Christmas Day
December 25, 2023

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.*

Welcome to Christmas Day worship!

***We rejoice that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
... [not] to condemn the world, but in order that the world
might be saved through him" (John 3:16-17).***

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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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.

Isaiah 9:6



*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.

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.*

LSB pg. 186

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

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 (Sung)

P *The Lord be with you.*

C *And with thy spirit.*

P *Let us pray.*

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Lesson

1 Chronicles 17:1–15

¹Now when David lived in his house, David said to Nathan the prophet, “Behold, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under a tent.” ²And Nathan said to David, “Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you.”

³But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁴“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: It is not you who will build me a house to dwell in. ⁵For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling. ⁶In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?””

⁷Now, therefore, thus shall you say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel, ⁸and I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ⁹And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall waste them no more, as formerly, ¹⁰from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I declare to you that the LORD will build you a house. ¹¹When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹²He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. ¹³I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, ¹⁴but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.’” ¹⁵In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Proverbs 8:12-31



¹² “I, Wisdom, dwell with | prudence,*
and I find knowledge and | discretion.
¹⁴ I have counsel and sound | wisdom;*
I have insight; I | have strength.

²² The LORD possessed me at the beginning | of his work,*
the first of his | acts of old.
²³ Ages ago I was | set up,*
at the first, before the beginning | of the earth.
²⁴ When there were no depths I was | brought forth,*
when there were no springs abounding | with water.
²⁵ Before the mountains had | been shaped,*
before the hills, I was | brought forth,
²⁶ before he had made the earth | with its fields,*
or the first of the dust | of the world.
²⁷ When he established the heavens, | I was there;*
when he drew a circle on the face | of the deep,
²⁸ when he made firm the | skies above,*
when he established the fountains | of the deep,
²⁹ when he assigned to the sea | its limit,*
when he marked out the foundations | of the earth,
³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master | workman,*
and I was daily his | delight,
³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited | world*
and delighting in the child- | ren of man.

Titus 3:4–7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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)

John 1:1-14

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

C *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

Sermon Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

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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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 380

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come 358

Nunc Dimittis

LSB pgs. 199-200

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 & 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

Joy to the World

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