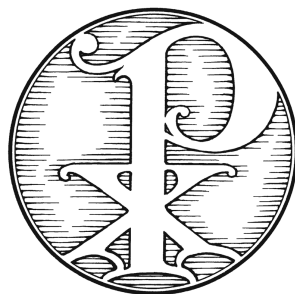


+ The Nativity of our Lord +

December 25, Year of our Lord 2025 / DS1

+ Confession and Absolution +



Opening Hymn: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



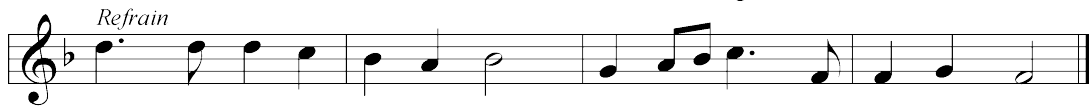
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47 Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

- 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.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 +

Versicles

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

- P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
C **and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
**The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
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.**

Kyrie Hymn: 944 Kyrie — II

1 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - - - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.

Text: Traditional Tune: Russian Orthodox Text and tune: Public domain

Gloria in Excelsis Hymn: 391 Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -
to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from
on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!
My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er
For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937 Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

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 A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

C 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.
Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1–12

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

A This is the Word of the Lord. **G** **Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day

John 1:14

P Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



Holy Gospel

John 1:1–18

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



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not



know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And 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. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

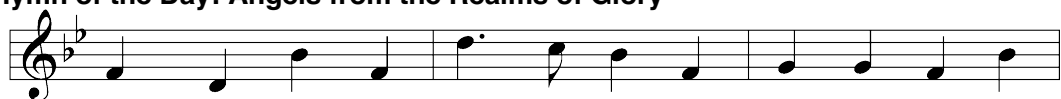
Nicene Creed

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.

Hymn of the Day: Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–4): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79 Text and tune: Public domain

+ Sermon +

The Lord has bared His Holy Arm

Offertory

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19

☐ (sung) What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Poinsettias Dedicated in Memory and Honor of...

Al & Sally Collver	in memory of	our daughter, Gina, and parents, Albert & Evelyn Caspers and Albert & Jane Collver
Amy Mohr	in memory of	Dick Mohr
Amy Mohr	in honor of	Amy's mother, Dorothy Solomon
Ann Brown	in memory of	loved ones
David & Nancy Smith	in honor of	Tillie and Shirley
Fred Hansen	in memory of	son, Brian Andrew; and the Schweer Family
George and Linda Walker	in memory of	our parents George and Mary Walker, and Larry and Helen Kilfoil
Hebar Family	in memory of	our grandparents
Jim & Maureen Roberts	in memory of	our parents
Larry & Cathy Wacker	in memory of	Sam, Marjorie, and Stephanie Wacker
Larry & Janet Moore	in memory of	Howard & Alice Moore, Harry & Marylou Lillemoen, and Linda Julio
Larry & Phyllis Bembas	in memory of	David Bembas and our parents
Lou & Karen Trebus	in memory of	our parents
Mark Ratliff	in memory of	Barbara Ratliff, Megan Ratliff, and Jeff Ratliff
Mark Yoder	in memory of	Sharon Yoder
Ole & Mavis Johnson	in honor of	our Military and our Law Enforcement
Phil & Carol Barnett	in memory of	our parents, Milton & Beatrice Yerges, and Hans & Dorothy Vangen
Phil & Carol Barnett	in honor of	Brad Barnett
Rick & Lisa Gift	in memory of	Rick's father, Terry Gift
Smith & Sebright Family	in memory of	Taryn Sebright and Debra Hauschildt
Steve & Janice Kaiser	in memory of	Richard Haynes and Andrew Kaiser
Thomas Lane	in memory of	Kathleen Lane
Tom & Nadine Wittkopp	in memory of	our son, Ed Wittkopp
Upward Family	in memory of	Tim's father, Richard Upward and our Grandparents, Leo Upward, John & Helen Mackowiak, Arlon & Darleen Balz, Bill & Pat Hartwig
Vesper Family	in memory of	John & Joanne Boling and Jim & Nancy Vesper

Prayers of the Church

+ Service of the Sacrament +

A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord's Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

Preface

p. 160; 2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P (sung) The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

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.

Proper Preface ~ Altar Book (appropriate to the day or season)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 161 or 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, ...now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

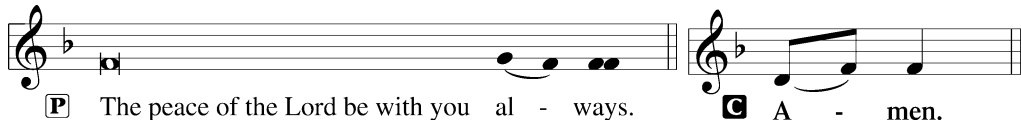
Mt 26:26-30; Mk 14:22-26; Lk 22:14-23; 1 Cor 11:23-25.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✙ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19



Agnus Dei

John 1:29

C (sung) **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church’s teachings prior to taking the Lord’s Supper (Communion) at Praise.

Distribution Hymn: 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Distribution Hymn: 393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Distribution Hymn: 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Nunc Dimittis *Luke 2:29–32*

C (sung) **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev’ry people: A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

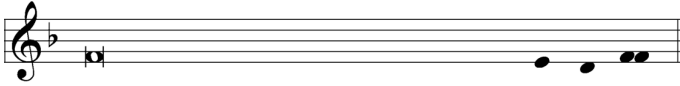
Post-Communion Collect *p. 166*

A Let us pray. ... one God, now and forever.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26




P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.




C A - men.

Closing Hymn: 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain


Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;




Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through - out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text (sts. 1–3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt. Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual Text and tune: Public domain

Merry Christmas to all. A Savior is Born! He is Christ, the Lord+
First Sunday after Christmas (and the commemoration of the Holy Innocents) is this coming
Sunday, Dec. 28 (normal Sunday service times, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)
Epiphany (including the visit of the Wisemen) will be observed on Sunday, Jan. 4

Acknowledgments

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