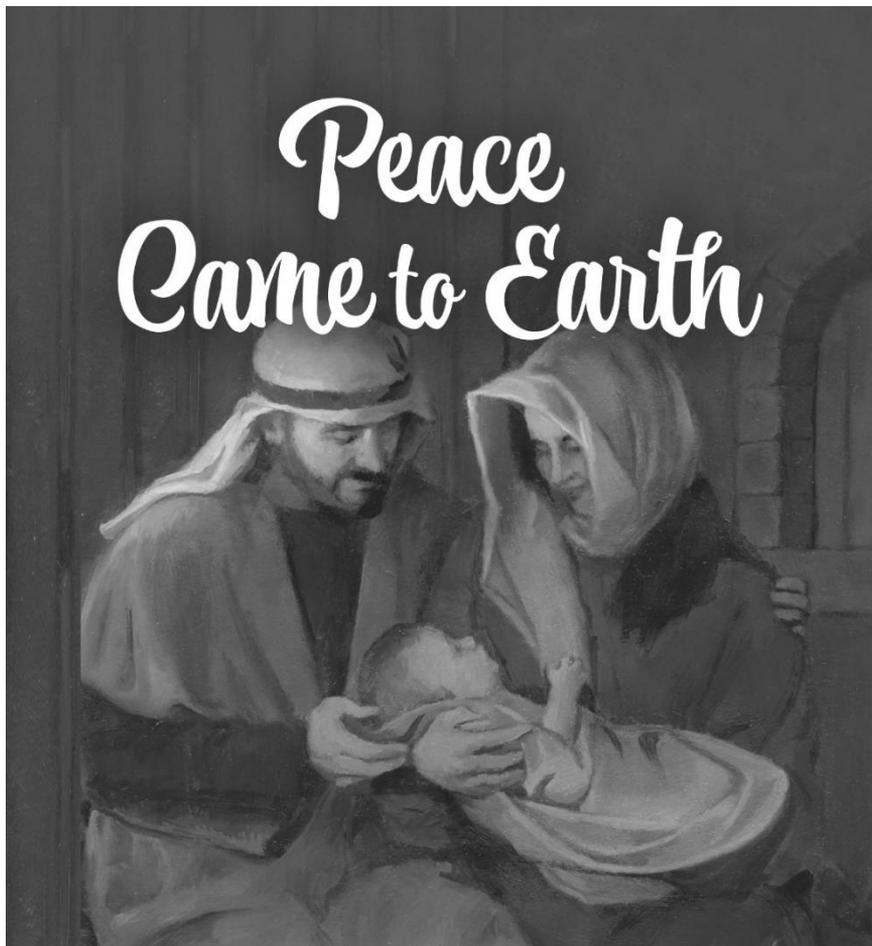


The Lutheran Church of the Savior
A Community of Faith: *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*

Peace
Came to Earth



Order of Worship

December 25, 2023 9:00 AM

The Nativity of Our Lord

Divine Service, Setting One

Prelude From Heaven Above to Earth I Come *Johann Pachelbel*

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-cr; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring,



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;



Dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-ri-ous throne.

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Invocation

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

G Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- L** 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

- L** 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.**
- L** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 98

Spoken responsively

¹Oh 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.

²**The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³He 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.

**⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

**⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!

**⁸Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together**

⁹before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

**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.**

Kyrie

L In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the
Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church
of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and
praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



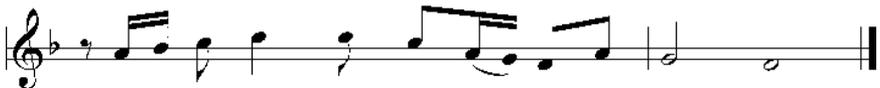
You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

L The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-second chapter.

⁷How 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."

⁸The 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.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The 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.

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1–6

L The Epistle is from Hebrews, the first chapter.

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For 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”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Christmas Proclamation

Choir

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

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

C **Glory to You, 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.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

All My Heart Again Rejoices

LSB 360



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near
2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing
Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

5 Softly from His lowly manger

Jesus calls One and all, "You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you
You are freed; All you need I will surely give you."

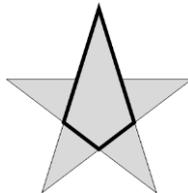
6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!

One and all, Great and small, Come with songs of gladness.
We shall live with Him forever
There on high In that joy Which will vanish never.

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Sermon "The Diamond Found in the Manger"

Luke 2:8–20



Prayer of the Church

- Ⓘ Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Wonderful Counselor, You govern all things with wisdom, righteousness, and truth. Grant to all mankind the joy of Your presence, that we may see You at work in our midst. Guide all nations to behold Your glory in the face of Jesus. Wherever the good news of great joy is announced, grant that lives be changed forever by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord:

Ⓒ Lord Jesus, bring joy to our world!

- Ⓘ Mighty God, You reign over all things and yet, in Christ, You reach down to save us by placing the most brilliant Light and most beautiful diamond in the manger of Bethlehem. Give us the boldness to declare Your mighty deeds and reflect the brightness of Your truth throughout the world. Inspire us to fulfill our earthly callings so that, through our worship and witness, all may know Your saving love. Let us pray to the Lord:

Ⓒ Lord Jesus, bring joy to our hearts and minds!

- Ⓘ Everlasting Father, You embrace us and make us Your children through faith in Your only-begotten Son. Bless all those who, in any form of illness of mind and body, need Your tender care. Heal the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and grant Your perfect peace to all who rest in You. We pray for those with special needs that they may rejoice in the message of Christ coming into this world for them. Let us pray to the Lord:

Ⓒ Lord Jesus, bring joy to our bodies and souls!

- Ⓘ Prince of Peace, You give to us what the world can never give. Drive out all fears and doubts. Deliver us from all enemies, seen and unseen. Grant us solace in Him whose blood has set us free that we may be Your people forever. Open our ears to the message of the angels: "Fear not . . . for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Let us pray to the Lord:

Ⓒ Lord Jesus, bring joy to our world!

L Gracious God, we entrust all of these prayers into Your good and gracious hands, for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

L 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.**

Benediction

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

C **Amen.**



Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs cm -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Gordon Young

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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