

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

A Community of Faith: *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



Order of Worship

December 24, 2025 7:00 PM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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Communion Theology and Practice

Welcome! In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Small Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. We also believe that Holy Communion is a profession of confessional unity in which all who commune at the Lord's Table are united in their confession and faith (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Therefore, we practice what is often called "closed communion," in which we invite those Christians who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith, who share in the same confession of faith as the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table.

If you are new here, have not been baptized or have received instruction with regard to the teachings of the Lutheran Church regarding the Lord's Supper, have doubts about the nature of the sacrament, or have questions, please introduce yourself to our pastor before the service. He will be happy to discuss these things with you and help determine whether or not you should commune. If you do not wish to commune, have not been baptized, or have not been instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come receive a blessing. When you come to the altar, please come forward with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like the pastor to bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!

The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve

Divine Service, Setting Two

Christmas Acclamation

Stand

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.

Text and Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

Text and Tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

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

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

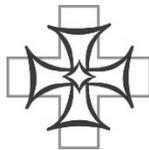
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

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

- 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.**

- 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.**



Stand

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 96; antiphon: v. 2



A Together, we sing Psalm 96 responsively:

²*Sing to the LORD, | bless his name;**
tell of his salvation from | day to day.

¹Oh sing to the LORD a | new song;*
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!

²**Sing to the LORD, | bless his name;***
tell of his salvation from | day to day.

³Declare his glory among the | nations,*
his marvelous works among all the | peoples!

⁴**For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised;***
he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless | idols,*
but the LORD made the | heavens.

⁶**Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him;***
strength and beauty are in his sanctu- | ary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the | peoples,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength!

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;***
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness;*
tremble before him, | all the earth!

¹⁰**Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!**
Yes, the world is established; it shall nev- | er be moved;*
he will judge the peoples with | equity."

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the | earth rejoice;*
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²let the field exult, and every- | thing in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

¹³**before the LORD, | for he comes,***
for he comes to | judge the earth.

He will judge the world in | righteousness,*
and the peoples in his | faithfulness.



C **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

²Sing to the LORD, | bless his name,
tell of his salvation from | day to day.*

Kyrie

LSB 168

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A 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 mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 170

A 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

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

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 A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
- ³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- ⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For 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.
⁷Of 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 justice and with righteousness
 from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

“A Modern Medieval Carol”

Mawby

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live
 self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for
 our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior
 Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness
 and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous
 for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20 (KJV)

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, Good will toward men.

¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 1-7, 13-15



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann
Text and Tune: Public domain

Sermon



Stand

Prayer of the Church

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

Response after each petition

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

C **Amen.**

Sit

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Text and Tune: Public domain

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

LSB 377



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
4 All out of dark - ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an-gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
 our Re-deem-er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
 life and health come in its place; An-gels and men with joy may
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer-ci-ful King's birth.
 free, All for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, All for to see the new-born King.
 men Now and for-ev-er-more. A-men."

Text and Tune: English

Text and Tune: Public domain



Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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