

## **Announcements and Reminders**

#### **Communion Statement**

In accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we believe and confess that in this Sacrament we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ under the forms of bread and wine. Our gathering at the Table of the Lord is not a mere symbolic eating and drinking. Receiving the body and blood of Christ together at this Holy Table is confessing that we who here receive this Sacrament share this common belief. Such celebration of the Sacrament carries two pastoral concerns:

- That all communicants understand what God is giving to us in His Supper. The New Testament speaks of grave harm that will come upon anyone who does not "discern the Lord's body" (1 Corinthians 11:29). We desire that you receive this gift to your good and never to your harm.
- Each one should be able to examine themselves and recognize their sin and need for God's grace, lest we contradict Christ by sin against Him and sin against His people. In this Sacrament we are most fully at one with Christ and with one another, and so we should come to this Table at peace with Him and at peace with all our sisters and brothers.

Because communion at the table of our Lord is such a confession of common faith, worshipers who have a different understanding, or who hold a differing confession of faith, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament should first speak with an Elder or the Pastor before communing. For those with health concerns, gluten-free wafers are available on request and non-alcoholic wine is available in the center cups of each communion tray. Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing by crossing their arms over their chest at the communion rail.

Join us this Christmas Season at Abiding Savior

Christmas Day Service 11:00 a.m. December 31 Divine Service 10:45 a.m.

# + The Nativity of Our Lord +

## + Preparation +

#### Prelude Welcome

Stand

Opening Hymn: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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.

#### + Confession and Absolution +

Exhortation 1 John 1:8–9

- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 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.
- 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]

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.

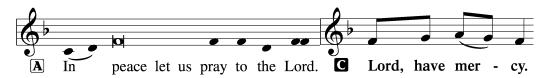
C Amen.

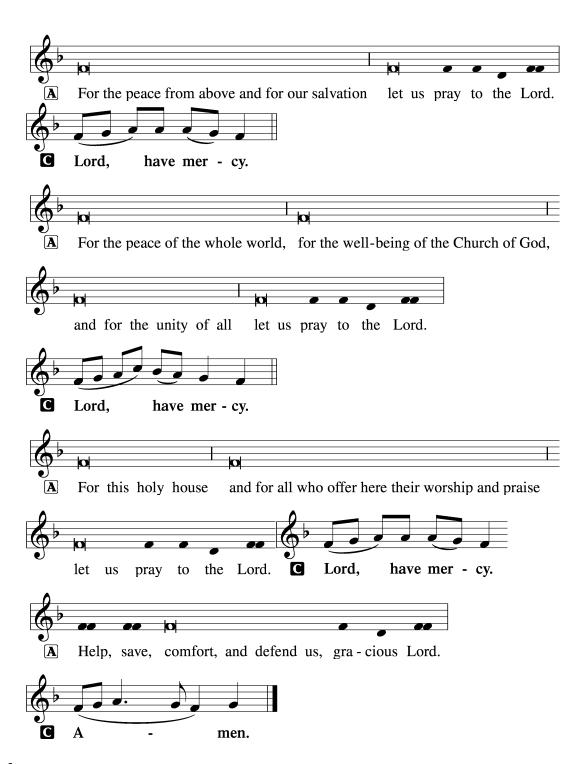
#### + Service of the Word +

Introit Hymn: 376 Once in Royal David's City



**Kyrie** Mark 10:47





#### Gloria: 368 Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju bi lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
- 3 Come to Beth-le-hem and see Him whose birth the an gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re-ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. What the glad-some tid - ings be Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.







## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 7:10-14

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

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

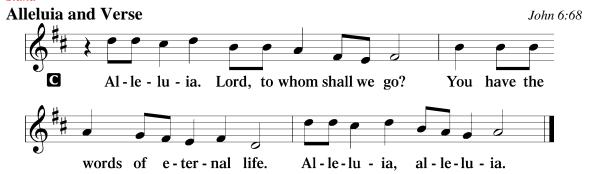
**Epistle** 1 *John 4:7–16* 

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

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

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

Stand



Holy Gospel Matthew 1:18–25

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



<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

### **Anthem**

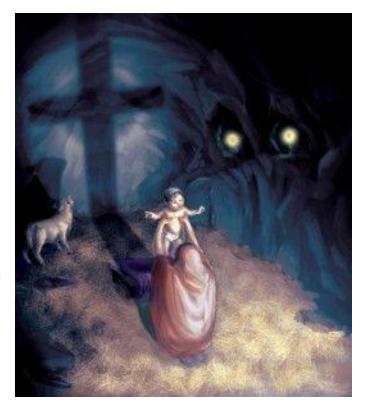
Labor of Love - from Behold the Lamb of God - Andrew Peterson

It was not a silent night; There was blood on the ground You could hear a woman cry In the alleyway that night On the streets of David's town And the stable was not clean, And the cobblestones were cold, And little Mary full of grace, With the tears upon her face Had no mother's hand to hold.

It was a labor of pain, It was a cold sky above; But for the girl on the ground in the dark, With every beat of her beautiful heart, It was a labor of love Noble Joseph by her side, Callused hands and weary eyes. There were no midwives to be found On the streets of David's town In the middle of the night, So he held her and he prayed; Shafts of moonlight on his face. But the baby in her womb, He was the maker of the moon He was the Author of the faith That could make the

It was a labor of pain,
It was a cold sky above
But for the girl on the ground in
the dark, With every beat of her
beautiful heart,
It was a labor of love.

For little Mary full of grace, With the tears upon her face, It was a labor of love.



#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

#### Stand

#### **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.

Sit

# Gathering of Offerings & Prayer Requests Voluntary

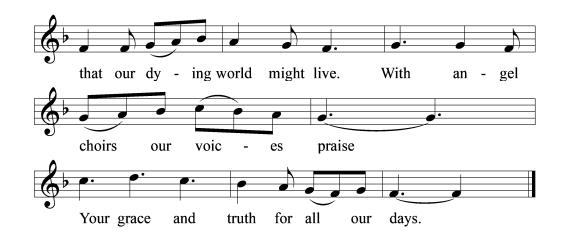
O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is

#### Stand

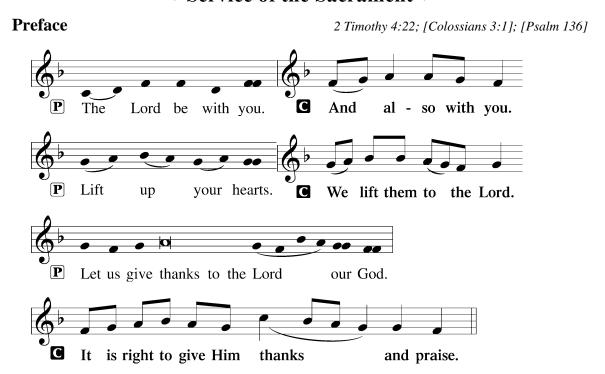
### **Prayer of the Church**

Offertory: To You, Lord God, Our Gifts We Bring



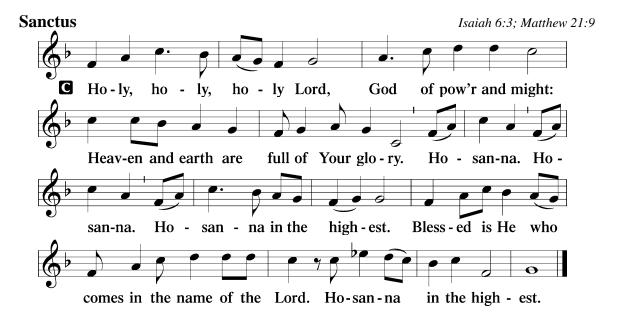


## + Service of the Sacrament +



### **Proper Preface**

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



#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9–13

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

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

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

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

## Agnus Dei: Lamb of God, O Jesus, Savior

Tune: Angels From the Realms of Glory

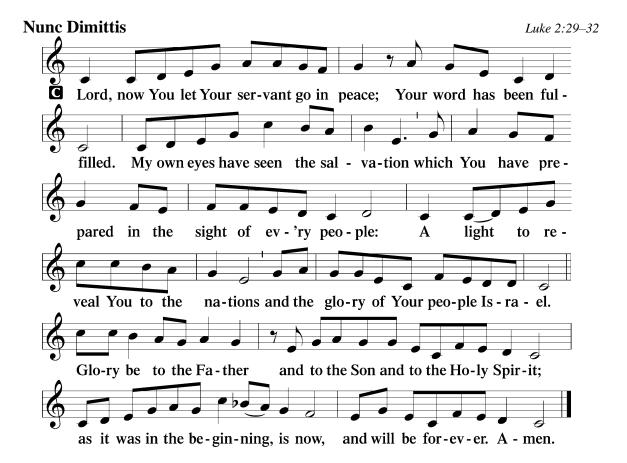
1 Lamb of God, O Jesus, Savior, You the world's sin take away. Lamb of God, O Christ, Redeemer, You have conquered in the fray. Lamb of God, O risen Savior, Grant Your peace to us, we pray.

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#### Stand

#### The Dismissal

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
- C Amen.



#### **Post-Communion Collect**

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not

to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## + Service of Light +



#### Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### **Anthem (with Congregation) –**

Night of Silence/Silent Night

Choir: Cold are the people, winter of life

We tremble in shadows this cold endless night Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping Flowers that will echo the sunrise

Fire of hope is our only warmth Weary, it's flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night On wind you enfold us You speak of the light Gentle on the ear you whisper softly Rumors of a dawn so embracing Breathless love awaits darkened souls Soon will we know of the morning.

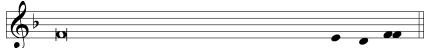
Spirit among us, shine like the star Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely Rising in the warmth of your son's love Star unknowing of night and day Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

All: Silent night, holy night - All is calm, all is bright Round you virgin mother and child - Holy infant so tender and mild Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace. (repeat, a cappella)

- **P** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- **C** Amen

The candles are extinguished

**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.



#### Closing Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

5 Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,

fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;

who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

6 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

glory to God ~ in ~ the ~ highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

7 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Jesu, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

#### **Postlude**

# Poinsettia Dedications



May the birth of our Savior bring "Joy to the World!" By Ken & Judy Bates



In Honor of Raymond and in Celebration of Baby Jesus By Dustin Banks



In Honor of Pastors in our Lives By Len & Muriel Young



In Memory of Pastor Alan Struckmeyer By the Struckmeyer Family



In Honor of all the people who suffered in 2023 By Ken & Judy Bates



In Memory of Art Swett By Marlene Swett & Family



In Memory of our parents By Betty & Gary Smith



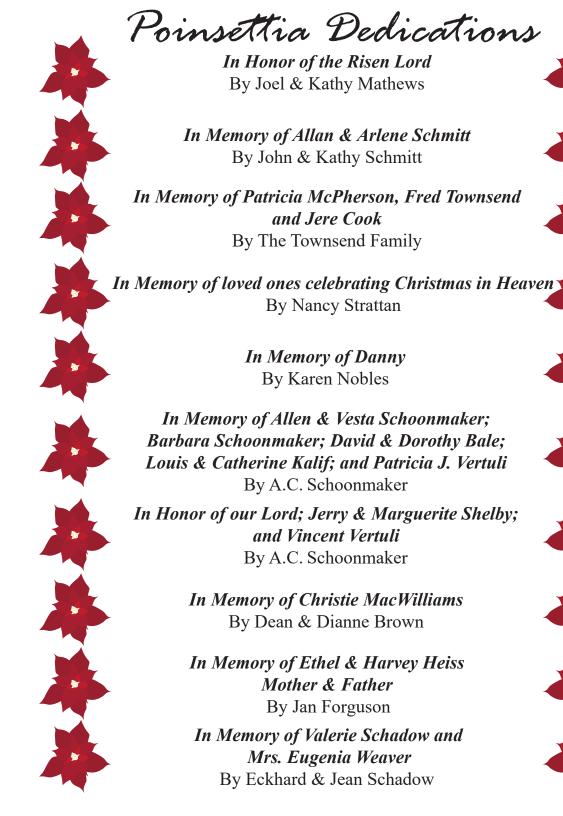
In Memory of Shirley Jackson By Patti Gill



In Memory of Marilyn Kohlberg By John & Kathy Schmitt







## ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting Hearts to Jesus since 1991 The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



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