

Take a moment to notice the * at the beginning of various portions of the order of service. The * indicates the place where it is inappropriate to enter or leave the sanctuary because it marks a time of prayer or respect for the Word of the Lord. Please be considerate of others around you by honoring these notations.



In the fullness of time, the Word become flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. Until the end of time, His grace is still given to us as He promised it in the Lord’s Supper. As we receive His gift today, we would ask guests who desire to commune to speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service. In joyful obedience to the teaching of Scripture, we practice close communion.

CHRISTMAS DAY

“The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells among Us in the Flesh”

December 25, 2023

AS WE GATHER: In the beginning God created all things through His Word, His Son. But man fell into sin, and with man all creation was cursed. Therefore, God spoke His Word again, this time into the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary. The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle of our human nature (Ex. 40:17-21, 34-38). *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”* (Jn. 1:1-14). The Son of God took on our flesh and blood and died on the cross in order that we might receive the right to become the children of God through faith. Baptized into Christ’s body, we are made partakers of a new Genesis, *“the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit”* (Titus 3:4-7). In Christ, the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man has truly appeared.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn” **LSB 391**

THE VAJDA HYMN SERVICE

INVOCATION/CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess that we have not always said in our hearts “Thy will be done” when we have been faced with decisions in our lives.

People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess that Your love has not reached others through us in every situation, and we admit to being thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God, our heavenly Father, as part of Your loving plan for us You have again welcomed us at Your Table. We thank You for the sustenance You have given us through this holy meal. Let Your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Your kingdom, for Yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION:

Pastor: The Father who made us,
The Son who reached us by His blood,
The Spirit who urges us to run a good race,
Bless and keep you in the one true faith until life everlasting.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice” **LSB 390**

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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Please have a Merry Christmas, and a very blessed New Year!

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Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
Pastor: It is truly good right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Above all we bless You that You have called us by name to be Yours and have established a plan for our lives. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your peace and abiding joy, Lord, now and forever. Together with angels and archangels and with all who rejoice in the courts of heaven, we praise Your glorious name, singing:

SANCTUS: To be sung. (Melody of LSB 507)
**“Holy, holy, holy!” all the saints in glory
Fill your temple with their song
around your golden throne;
“Holy, holy, holy!” with them we adore you;
God in three Persons, all in Christ as one.**

LORD’S PRAYER
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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI: To be sung. (Melody of LSB 702)
**Meek, slaughtered Lamb of God, You bore the sinners’ load
To buy our peace:
Now risen and enthroned, With life and glory crowned,
To all the lost and found Please grant your peace.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:
“A Great and Mighty Wonder” **LSB 383**

forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, and unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.
People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.
Pastor: We confess that we have not always been defenders of the weak and helpless – advocates of those not yet born and those in the final stages of life.
People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.
Pastor: We confess that we have not used every opportunity given us to witness to the faith that is ours and have let the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh set the agendas for our lives and actions.
People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.
Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.
People: Amen.

KYRIE: To be sung. (Using the melody of LSB 348)
**Look down in mercy on us, Lord,
Receive our prayers and praise,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,
For your amazing grace.**

GLORIA: To be sung. (Using the melody of LSB 380)
**Angels, sing, and earth, reply: “Glory be to God on high!”
God who flung the stars in space,
God who formed the human race,
God the mind and God the cause,
God the source of nature’s laws,
God of wisdom, power, and love,
God of gods, all gods above.
Angels, sing, and earth, reply: “Glory be to God on high!”**

Angels, sing, and earth, reply: "Glory be to God on high!"
God who saw your creatures fall,
Loved them still, and loved them all,
Gave your only Son to prove What is mercy, what is love;
And the Spirit, given free, Recreates your family.
Angels, sing, and earth, reply: "Glory be to God on High!"

***COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

Pastor: Almighty God,
People: 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. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 40:17-21; 34-38 Pew Bible page 152
(Setting up the Tabernacle.)

EPISTLE: Titus 3:4-7 Pew Bible page 1859
(Doing what is good.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" **LSB 384**

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: John 1:1-18 Pew Bible page 1645
(The Word became Flesh.)

***THE CREED:** To be sung. (Using the melody of LSB 364)
**Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive
Their being and blessing, in you we believe.
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all-true,
Provider and Father, our trust is in you.**
**And you, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,
True Son of the Father, by angels adored.
Redeemer incarnate, you paid for our sins,
And, joined in your rising, our new life begins.**

Free Spirit of wisdom, of power and love,
On us, as on Christ, you descend from above;
You call us, you cleanse us, you open our eyes,
You keep us in peace, you restore paradise.

SERMON HYMN: "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" **LSB 375**

SERMON

OFFERTORY "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" **LSB 378**

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:**

Response:
Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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:

Pastor: The Father who made us,
The Son who reached us by His blood,
The Spirit who urges us to run a good race,
Bless and keep you in the one true faith until life
everlasting.
People: Amen.

This concludes the service for online viewing

***SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Members Receive Communion
Visitors May Request a Blessing

PREFACE:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

