

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altamont, Illinois
The Festival of
The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day Festival Service



December 25, 2023
THE FEAST OF CHRISTMAS

Pre-Service Music
Ringing of the Bell

Hymn 387 JOY TO THE WORLD

sts. 1–2

(Stand)

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

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners
confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and
that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.

Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: 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. *John 20:19-31*

All: Amen.

INTROIT *sung by all*

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

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.
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done |
marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- |
tion for him.

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
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 be- | ginning,*
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



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

388 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN



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;



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.

Tune and text: Public domain

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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 Amen.

(Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7–10

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.

GRADUAL *sung by all*

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

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 1:1–6

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.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

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

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–14

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Sit)

HYMN 383 A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER

SERMON: REJOICE

(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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Sit)

OFFERING

(Stand)

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

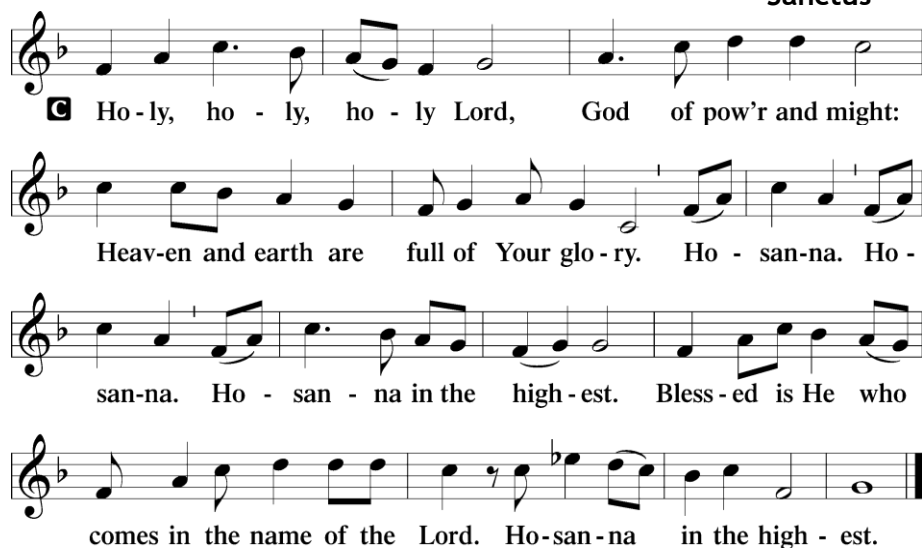
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE *is prayed by the pastor*

SANCTUS

LSB 161

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

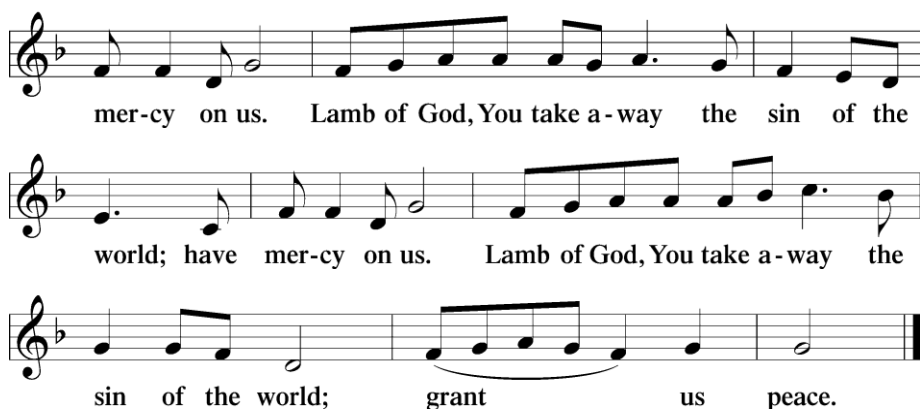
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

358 FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME

(Stand)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray. . .

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

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 Amen.

HYMN 379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

sts. 1, ref, 2–4

POSTLUDE DISMISSAL

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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