

*Christmas Day*  
*December 25, 2023*



<https://i.canvas.com/RUA222?d=2&sh=h&p=1&bg=g>

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (arr. Hildebrand); “Angels We Have Heard on High” (arr. Held); “O Come All Ye Faithful” (arr. Hildebrand)

**A Reminder: Please be respectful to our brothers and sisters who use the time prior to worship for quiet meditation on God's Word. - Thank you**

### **368 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

**Refrain** Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French Text: Public domain

### **INVOCATION**

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

**C** **Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

**P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

**C** and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**P** Oh 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.

**C** The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**P** 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.

**C** 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 beginning, 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.

## 387 JOY TO THE WORLD

*sts. 1–2*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Text: Public domain

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 52:7–10*

<sup>7</sup>How 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.” <sup>8</sup>The 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. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The 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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

*Hebrews 1:1–12*

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

<sup>5</sup>For 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”? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” <sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” <sup>10</sup>And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, <sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**DUET** “Noel” (Tomlin)

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 1:1–14*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And 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.**

## **384 OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN**

*Solo ~ 1 Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.*

2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

3 This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev’ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
Text: Public domain

**SERMON** “Unto Us a Son is Born” Hebrews 1:1-12

**NICENE CREED** (*Creed can be found in the back of the hymnal and on the screens*)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Gathered as God’s people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all people according to their needs, confidently bringing our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our light and our salvation.

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, O Lord God Almighty, that when darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, You provided a Savior, able to help, and strong to deliver.

**C Praise to You, O God!**

**P** Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, that You gave Your eternal Son to become incarnate, that through Him light and pardon, power and peace, life and eternal salvation, might come to the fallen and lost children of men.

**C Praise to You, O God!**

**P** Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be unto You, that by the holy nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ we, who by sin were driven out of the earthly paradise, are begotten again to a new Kingdom and to an endless paradise in heaven.

**C Praise to You, O God!**

**P** God of all mercy, let it please You to add grace to grace; and as You have given Your Son to be our Redeemer, pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit, that with pure hearts we may celebrate His birth, and with joyful devotion welcome Him. Grant we ask You, O Lord, that the good tidings of great joy in which we rejoice this day may everywhere be known. Bless the Church throughout the world that it may faithfully prosper in all things. Guide the rulers of nations that pathways of peace may be found. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer!**

**P** Grant the needs of all people be met according to Your good and gracious will. Grant that the ill and those burdened by many cares find respite from their challenges. Grant that those who sorrow this day look up to Your throne and find abundant consolation in Him who came to ransom us from every fear and every foe. Send the joy of Your salvation into all penitent and burdened souls, that they may rejoice and give glory to God that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer!**

**P** Help, defend, and keep us all, through Him who was born at Bethlehem, so that when He comes in glorious majesty to complete our redemption we may have our perfect fulfillment and joy in His eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose blessed name we make all of our prayers.

**C Amen.**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

## PREFACE

**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

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; by whose birth in the flesh as the Savior from sin You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

LSB 208

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## LORD'S PRAYER

## PAX DOMINI

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

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

- C** **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## + DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

***For guests and visitors, we invite you to please read our statement regarding the Lord's Supper on the inside cover of your bulletin.***

## 370 WHAT CHILD IS THIS

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98

Text: Public domain

### 393 INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

- 1 Infant holy,  
Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing,  
Little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging,  
Angels singing,  
Bells are ringing,  
Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping,  
Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory,  
Heard the story,  
Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing,  
Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing,  
Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.; Polish

Text: Public domain

### 366 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats O’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its babel sounds The blessèd angels sing.
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass  
By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years  
Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth  
God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.

Text: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have gathered us together at Your Table and refreshed us through this Sacrament. Keep us, we pray, in Your faith and favor that we live for You and be fit temples for the Holy Spirit. Grant that the body and blood of our blessed Lord preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Jesus our Savior, who has come to earth in the flesh and now lives and reigns in glory with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**G** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**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.

**G** Amen.

## 388 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

**Refrain** Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. **Refrain**
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**
- 3 Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

Text (sts. 1–3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual

Text: Public domain

## POSTLUDE “Christmas Medley” (arr. Ellers)

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.

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