

**Christmas Eve |  
December 24, 2024**



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**✠ The Nativity of Our Lord ✠**

**Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2024**

*Stand*

**Hymn of Invocation: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”** *LSB 379, Sts. 1-2*

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: *Refrain*

*ref* O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

*The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.*

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

**C** **Amen.**

## Opening Sentences

*Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:14*

- P** For to us a child is born,  
**C** **to us a son is given;**
- P** And His name shall be called  
**C** **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,**
- P** Everlasting Father,  
**C** **Prince of Peace.**
- P** “Glory to God in the highest,  
**C** **and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
**C** **We confess to You that we are sinful by nature and by choice. We have broken the peace of Your good creation and transgressed the boundaries You have established for Your creatures. We can only be brought back to You by the life, death, and resurrection of Your incarnate Son, the God-man, Jesus. For His sake, we ask for Your mercy and forgiveness and for the filling of the Holy Spirit that we may follow Jesus all our days.**
- P** In the baby Jesus born in Bethlehem, the almighty Creator God has become human to bring humanity into a relationship of love with Himself, and for the sake of Jesus forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

**Entrance Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

*LSB 379, sts.3-4*

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Refrain*
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**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** **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 9:2–7, ESV*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You 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. <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Of 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.

## Gradual

*Is. 9:6; Ps. 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

*Titus 2:11–14, ESV*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who 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

### Verse of the Day

Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of | David  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Alle- | luia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:1–14, KJV*

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup> And 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:) <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And 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. <sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

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



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## 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*

**Hymn of the Day:** *“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”* LSB 377

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King’s birth.

2 Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin He set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

3 When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place,  
When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.

4 All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God and peace to men  
Now and forevermore. Amen.”

**Sermon:** *“Glory to God in the Highest”*

*Luke 2:14*

*Stand*

**Offertory**

*LSB 192*

□ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

*After each petition:*

- P** We pray,
- C** hear us, **Wonderful Counselor.**

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

*LSB 194*

- P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

- P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by His holy incarnation and birth in Bethlehem is Himself Your perfect gift of love for the forgiveness of all people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*LSB 195*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 196*

**P** 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

*LSB 197*

**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

*LSB 197*

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



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

*LSB 198*



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

## Distribution

**Distribution Hymn:** “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

*LSB 368*

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

*ref* 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*

**Distribution Hymn:** *“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”* LSB 358

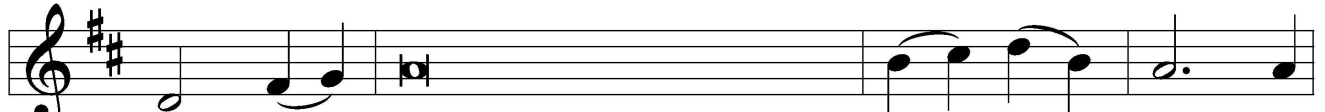
- 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 “To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 “This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.
- 4 “He will on you the gifts bestow  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us His glory 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.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with me.

- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,  
How weak You are, so poor and small,  
That You should choose to lay Your head  
Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair  
And set with gold and jewels rare,  
It would be far too poor and small  
A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff  
You have but hay and straw so rough  
On which as King, so rich and great,  
To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see  
This simple truth revealed to me:  
That worldly honor, wealth, and might  
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 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.

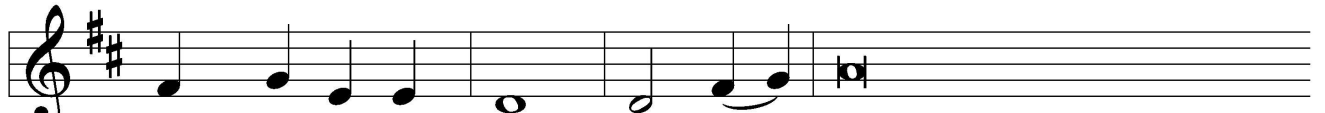
*Stand*

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-




cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

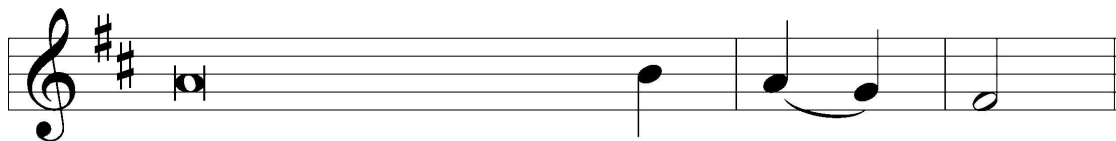


to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



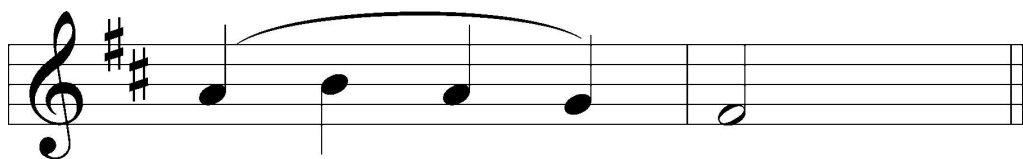
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**A** *Let us pray...* Lord, You are the light of the world in whom there is no darkness at all. Shine with the brightness of Your light in our hearts that we might believe and that many in the world may be called from darkness into Your marvelous light; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Lighting Of The Candles

*1 John 1:5–7; Matthew 5:14–16*

*(The pastor will light the ushers' candles. The ushers will then light the candles of the worshipers in each pew nearest the aisles. The candlelight is passed to fellow worshipers.)*

**P** As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.



**C** If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

**P** But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

**C** and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**P** You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen! Glory to God in the highest! Peace to His people on earth!

**Hymn:** *“Away in a Manger”*

*LSB 364*

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

- 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!

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
    How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
    The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
    The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
    Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

**Hymn:** *“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”*

*LSB 366*

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.

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.

**Hymn:** *“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

*LSB 374*

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favor.
  
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth;  
Hail the King of glory!

**Hymn:** *“What Child Is This”*

*LSB 370*

- 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!

**Hymn:** “*Silent Night, Holy Night*”

*LSB 363*

- 1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

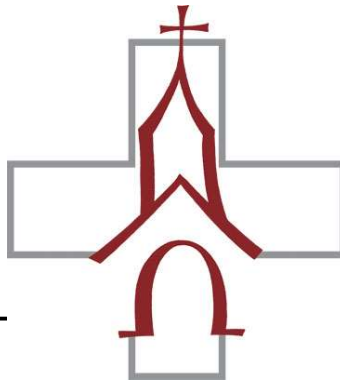
# **THANK YOU TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE**

**Preacher:** Rev. Gary A. Wright

**Organist:** Bruce Noah

**Elders: 10:45 a.m.:** Jerry Tutskey

**Videographers:** Rick Serre, Max Serre, Alex Serre



## **Acknowledgments**

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