



*Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity*

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Liturgy of Holy Communion

Nativity of Our Lord

(To gather with a sense of community in worship, please be seated in the front pews on either side. Upon being seated, all are asked to observe silence for reflection and prayerful preparation, and to honor the silent meditation of others.)

*Congregational responses are in **bold face**.*

Significance of the Day: As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

Gathering

Prelude *Variations on Selected Carols* (Manz et al)

Greeting

Confession and Forgiveness

(The assembly stands as the Pastor enters.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,**

**our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.
Amen.

The Gathering Song

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Christmas Dialog

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven.”

In Christ, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.





1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

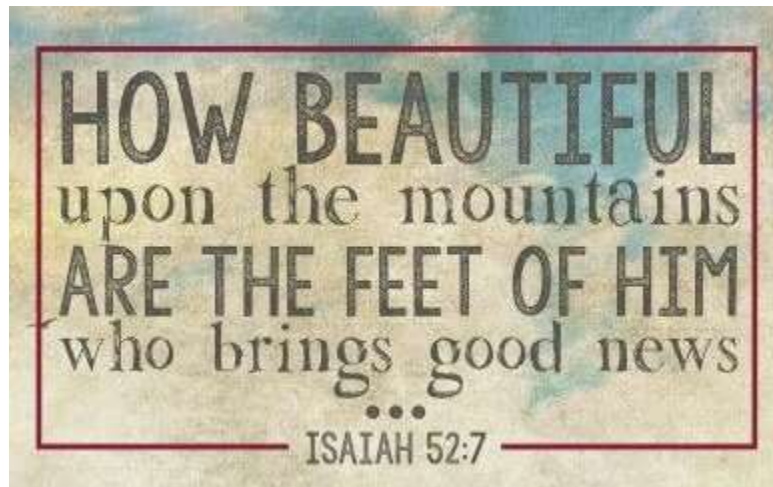
(The assembly sits.)

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 98

- 1 Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- 2 O Lord, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**
- 3 You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness
to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- 4 Shout with joy to the Lord, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**
- 5 Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- 6 With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | King, the Lord.**
- 7 Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.
- 8 Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
who comes to | judge the earth.**
- 9 The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands.)

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly sits.)

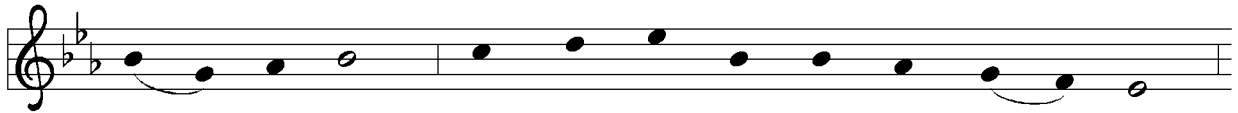
Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

(The assembly stands)



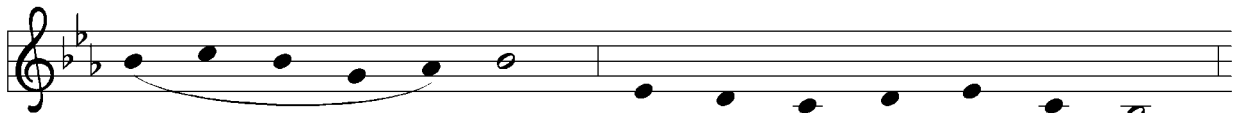
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the
world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family, responding, God of grace, hear our prayer.

A brief silence.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Are there others for whom we should pray?

P: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

(The assembly is seated.)

Meal

Offering

Music during the Offering Interlude on *Divinium Mysterium* (Held)

(The assembly stands.)

Offertory Verse

2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?

Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.

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 Mar - y!

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

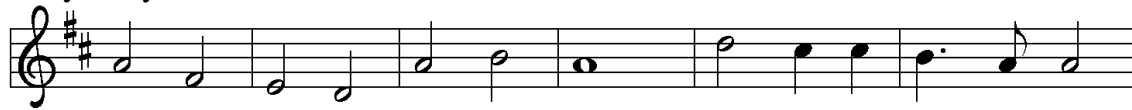
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy



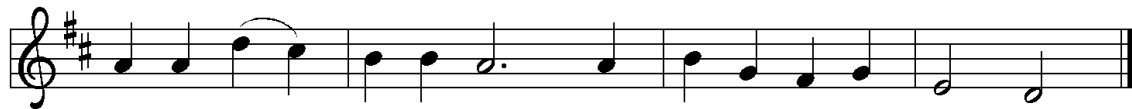
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

You are indeed holy,
almighty and merciful God;
you are most holy,
and great is the majesty
of your glory.

We give thanks through Jesus Christ,
your beloved Son,
whom you sent
in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us
and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word,
inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things,
and in him you take delight.

He is your Word,
sent from heaven
to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature
and our lot and

was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit
and of the virgin Mary.

Having come into the world,
he fulfilled for us your holy will
and accomplished our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is the new
covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored
in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread
and cup, that, nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is
yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Breaking of Bread

In this Holy Sacrament God makes a home with us.

Let us approach in wonder at all that God has done.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



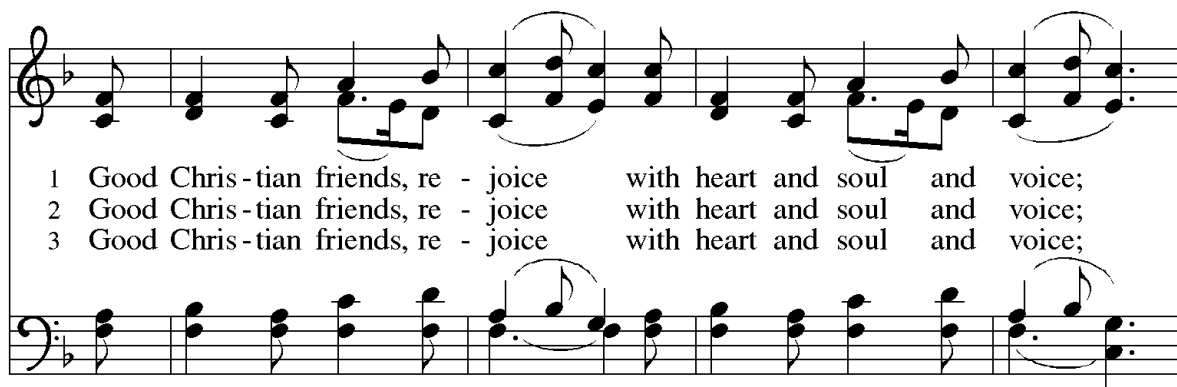
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion of the Faithful




(The assembly stands.)

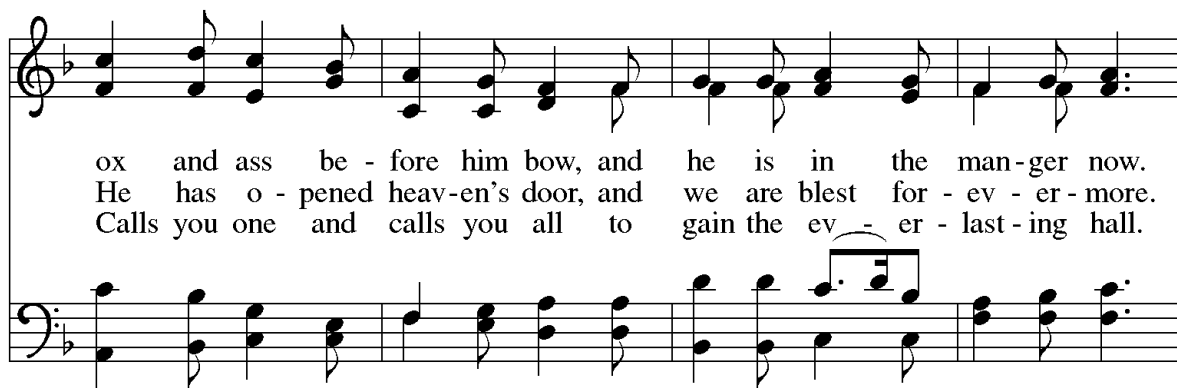
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Great and gracious God, we thank you that in this holy meal the true Light has come to dwell in us. As we return into the world you love, may we take to all people the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

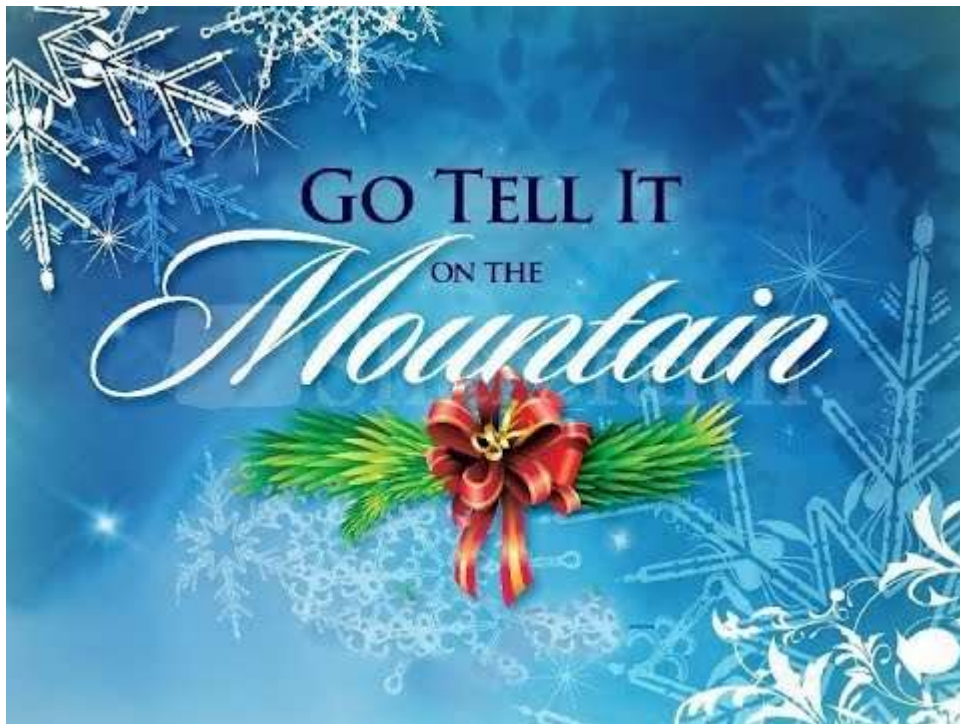
Amen.

Sending

Blessing

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
 3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a

high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your

sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
 you take our flesh and blood,
 and in return give us to share
 the shining realm of God,
 the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
 that leads to paradise;
 the angel bars the way no more.
 To God let praises rise,
 to God let praises rise!

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Variation on *Lobt Gott Ihr Christen*

(Manz)

Serving Today

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin

Organist Maidene Hackett

Liturgical Deacon Linda Armstrong

Acknowledgments

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