



Stained glass depicting the Nativity of Our Lord, Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Christmas Eve

Divine Service 3

December 24, 2023 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

Scripture of the Day

Isaiah 9:2–7

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–20

A Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

Prelude (4:00, 10:30): “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”, *setting by P. Bunjes*
(Text: *LSB 347 stanzas 1 and 4*)

Prelude (7:00): “What Child Is This”, A. Guebert

Please stand and face the Processional Cross.

Processional Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



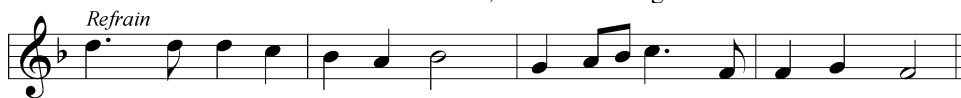
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C Amen.



✠ Service of the Word ✠

Choral Anthem (4:00): “This Is the Truth Sent from Above”, S. Tucker

Introit (7:00, 10:30) *Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*



- P** When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.
- C** Why do the | nations rage*
and the peoples | plot in vain?
- P** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against his a- | noointed.
- C** He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.
- P** Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,
- C** “As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.”
- C** 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.
- P** When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

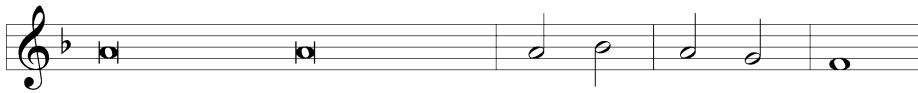
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



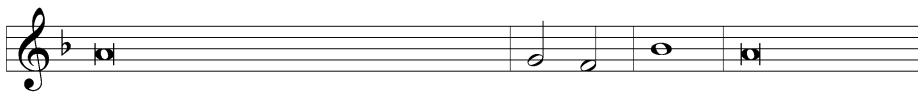
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

G And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P 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.

G A - men.

Sit

The Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7*

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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.

The Epistle Reading *Titus 2:11–14*

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

Festival Alleluia

The “Alleluia” refrain is sung by All before and after the Verse, which is sung by the Choir.



Al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.



Al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia!

Choir Verse: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel *Luke 2:1–20*

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G 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.

*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6
Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3
Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
Colossians 1:16*

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.

*Romans 10:9
John 3:16; Matthew 16:16
John 1:2
John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1
Colossians 2:9
John 1:2
John 10:30
Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3
Matthew 20:28; Galatians 4:4-5
John 3:13, John 6:38
Luke 1:34-35
John 1:14
Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18
John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53
1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6
Acts 1:9
Acts 7:55
Matthew 26:64
Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12
2 Peter 1:11*

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.

*John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38
Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:3
John 15:26
Mt. 3:16-17; Lk. 2:14
Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Peter 1:20-21
1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22
Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:38
1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Isaiah 65:17-19; Revelation 21:1-4
Psalm 106:48*

Please remain standing for the Hymn of the Day.

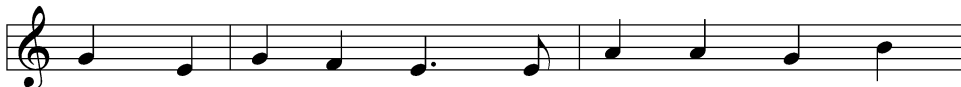
Hymn of the Day: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come *LSB 358 sts. 1–3, 9–10, 14–15*

Stanzas 2 and 10 sung by Men only

Stanzas 3 and 14 sung by Women and Children only



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 (Men) 2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 (Women & Children) 3 “This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 are, so poor and small, That You should choose to



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!

(Men) 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.

(Women & Children) 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.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

Sermon Rev. Seth Clemmer (4:00, 7:00)
Rev. Emmett Bartens (10:30)



Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

Thank you for continuing to support the Lord's Work here at Bethany. Offering plates are available at the back of the sanctuary, or consider giving through the Vanco Mobile app or online at www.bethanyles.org.

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361 sts. 1, 4



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

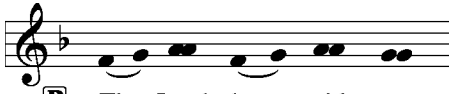


✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

About Receiving the Lord's Supper at Bethany

As we receive the Lord's Holy Supper according to His institution, we receive the salvation, forgiveness, and life eternal won for us on the cross. Also, we believe that when a person communes at an altar, one confesses unity with the teachings of that church. Therefore, if you are not in fellowship with the teaching of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we ask that you refrain from communion until you have had opportunity to speak with one of the pastors about Christ's bodily presence and the forgiveness of sins given in this meal. However, all are welcome to receive a blessing, for the forgiveness of Jesus is still yours. Please indicate this as your intention by crossing your arms over your chest when the pastor comes by.

Preface



P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



G And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]



G We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

[Psalm 136]

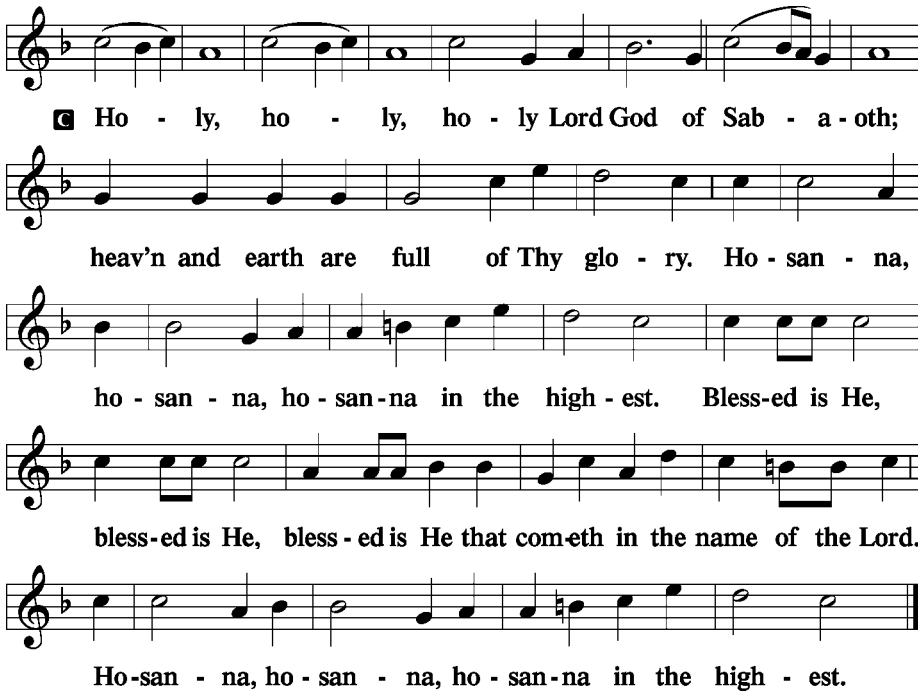


G It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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

Matthew 6:9-13

C 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
LORD'S
Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

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

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



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



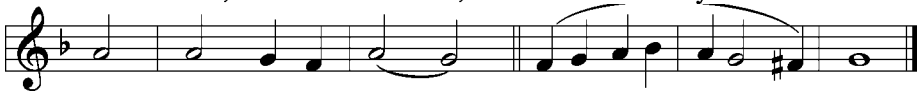
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



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

A Prayer for Right Reception of the Lord's Supper

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem during Distribution (4:00, 7:00): “Away in a Manger”, T. Gregory

Distribution Hymn (4:00, 7:00): Away in a Manger

LSB 365



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.

Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

Text and tune: Public domain



Anthem during Distribution (4:00): "What Child Is This", A. Guebert

Distribution Hymn: What Child Is This

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98

Tune: English, 16th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain



Anthem during Distribution (10:30): "This Is the Truth Sent from Above", S. Tucker

Distribution Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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

Stand



Thanksgiving after Receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Hymn: Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
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



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.

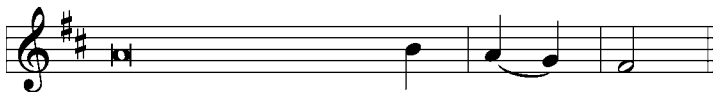
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



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

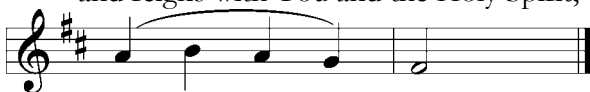


G and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation and Benedicamus



P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



G And with thy spir - it.



A Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]



G Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
Q A-men, a-men, a - men.



Hymn to Depart: Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

We will pass around candlelight as we sing, taking care to tip only UNLIT candles. Please be very careful with hot wax, and avoid dripping it on the floor and pews. Thank you!

- 1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochbeilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*
- 2 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.
- 3 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!
- 4 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.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude: ANTIOCH (“Joy to the World”), C. Schalk

A Prayer after Worship

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Those Serving You Today

4:00 Preacher and Celebrant: Rev. Seth Clemmer

Assisting Pastors: Rev. Stephen Schumacher, Rev. Emmett Bartens

Organist: Kantor Jonathan Swett

Music Ensembles: Proclaim, Praises Ring!, Bethany Brass

Acolytes: Clara Bello, Henry Nelson

Sacristans: David Brouch, Rich Fick, Troy Parlier, Bill Quinn

Ushers: Morgan Dugan, Rick Grimes, Brent Hawley, Jay Schafer

Communion Care: Sheila Bell

7:00 Preacher and Celebrant: Rev. Seth Clemmer

Assisting Pastors: Rev. Stephen Schumacher, Rev. Emmett Bartens

Organist: Kantor Jonathan Swett

Music Ensembles: Praises Ring!, Bethany Brass

Live Stream Tech: James Blasius

Acolytes: Kenny Fox, Rebecca Petersen

Sacristans: Rich Ford, Tye Fox, Marty Franken, Exaud Koka

Ushers: Troy Darcy, James Franken, volunteers needed

Communion Care: Amy Darcy

10:30 Preacher and Celebrant: Rev. Emmett Bartens

Assisting Pastors: Rev. Seth Clemmer, Rev. Stephen Schumacher

Organist: Kantor Jonathan Swett

Music Ensemble: Proclaim

Acolytes: Lily Keller, volunteer needed

Sacristans: Daren Roth, Dominic Salvino, Mike Walsh, volunteer Needed

Ushers: Jonathan Knussman, Troy Roberts, volunteers needed

Communion Care: Kim Burnell

The flowers adorning our Lord's altar today are placed to the glory of our Triune God by Bob and Cheryl Airhart.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

Tonight we begin the season of Christmas. On this night, Christians all over the world are lighting candles, singing hymns and joining together to worship the one true God who made this night so special.

What makes this night different from all other nights?

Tonight is the big night! All through the season of Advent, the Church has been preparing for the birth of Jesus. Tonight we celebrate and remember His arrival! This is the night that our God became a man, born of the Virgin Mary, to save all people from their sins. What a blessed and wonderful night!



Parents: Before or after the service, allow your children to explore the decorations of the church. Instruct them to be reverent in God's holy places. Direct their attention to all of the lights and candles that fill the sanctuary. Remind them that Jesus is the Light of the World. He overcame the darkness of sin and saves all those who believe.



This Week at Bethany

- **December 25, 9:30am – Christmas Day Divine Service**
- December 26, 1:00pm – Bible Reading Group
- **December 27, 11:00am – Midweek Divine Service**
- December 28, 7:00pm – Evening LifeLight
- December 29, 12:00pm – Knitters and Crafts Group

Looking Further Ahead

- **December 31, 8:30am and 11:00am – Divine Service**
- December 31, 10:00am – Bible Study, NO Sunday School or Confirmation Class
- January 2, 1:00pm – LWML
- January 3, 9:00am – Women's LifeLight
- January 4, 9:00am – Bethany Guild
- January 6, 8:00am – Men's Bible Breakfast
- **January 6, 6:30pm – Epiphany Divine Service**

CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!

For information on activities and updates at Bethany, please subscribe to the "Week at a Glance" by emailing office@bethanylcs.org. If you prefer, some paper copies are available at the Welcome Center.



www.bethanylcs.org

630-355-2198

Pastor Seth Clemmer

Pastor Stephen Schumacher

Pastor Emmett Bartens

email: office@bethanylcs.org