
CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2025
† DIVINE SERVICE III/HOLY COMMUNION †
LSB PAGE 184

REGISTRATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Members of Mt. Calvary and visitors, who are confirmed members in good standing of congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to announce attendance at Holy Communion by means of the registration cards in the pews. Non-member visitors and guests, who may desire to attend Holy communion, are asked to speak in person with the pastor before doing so. Those who desire a blessing, but choose not to commune, may come forward and simply cross their hands over their chest.

In accord with Holy Scripture, our church teaches that Holy Communion is open only to those who: (1) have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:41-42; (2) are able to examine themselves both as to what this meal is and also its purpose; 1 Cor. 11:26-30; (3) have confessed and repented of their sins; 1 John 1:8-2:3; (4) believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine all communicants receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins: 1 Cor. 11:23-27, 1 Cor. 10:16, Matt. 26:26-28; and who (5) are united in belief in the same teaching: 1 Cor. 10:17, Rom. 16:18, 2 John 10-11, Matt. 28:20, Heb. 13:9.

Looking for extra help in focusing your thoughts for the Lord's Supper? "Christian Questions with Their Answers" was prepared by Luther to address just that. They can be found in your hymnal on pages 329-330. Review them if you get to church early, or during the offering, or if you are waiting to be invited forward.

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

RINGING BELL CALLS US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *LSB 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful***CONFESION AND ABSOLUTION**

Page 184 (left column)

P: In the name of the Father and of the \ddagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.**C: AMEN.**

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.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

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

C: AND YOU FORGAVE THE INIQUITY OF MY SIN.*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 \ddagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.**C: AMEN.****INTROIT***Psalm 2:1-2, 4-6; antiphon: Liturgical Text***WHEN ALL WAS STILL, AND IT WAS | MIDNIGHT,*****YOUR ALMIGHTY WORD, O LORD, DESCENDED FROM THE | ROYAL THRONE.****WHY DO THE | NATIONS RAGE*****AND THE PEOPLES | PLOT IN VAIN?**

**THE KINGS OF THE EARTH SET THEMSELVES, AND THE RULERS TAKE COUNSEL
TO- | GETHER,***
AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS A- | Nointed.
HE WHO SITS IN THE | HEAVENS LAUGHS;*
THE LORD HOLDS THEM IN DE- | RISION.
THEN HE WILL SPEAK TO THEM | IN HIS WRATH,*
AND TERRIFY THEM IN HIS FURY, | SAYING,
“AS FOR ME, I HAVE | SET MY KING*
ON ZION, MY | HOLY HILL.”
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.
WHEN ALL WAS STILL, AND IT WAS | MIDNIGHT,*
YOUR ALMIGHTY WORD, O LORD, DESCENDED FROM THE | ROYAL THRONE.

KYRIE*Lord Have Mercy*

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

HYMN OF PRAISE LSB 368 *Angels We Have Heard on High***SALUTATION**

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P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

C: 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. AMEN.

Please be seated

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory.

C: OH, COME, LET US WORSHIP HIM.

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.

P: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them has the light shined.

C: WE HAVE SEEN CHRIST'S GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE FATHER'S ONLY SON, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

P: For a Child has been born to us, a Son given to us.

C: WHAT HAS COME INTO BEING IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE.

P: Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared.

C: GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN, AND ON EARTH, PEACE, GOOD WILL TO MEN! ALLELUIA!

(the Christ Candle is lit)

THE GOSPEL FOR YOUNG FOLK

FIRST 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 shone. 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

PSALM Psalm 96

Oh sing to the LORD a | new song;*
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!

SING TO THE LORD, | BLESS HIS NAME;*

TELL OF HIS SALVATION FROM | DAY TO DAY.

Declare His glory among the | nations,*
His marvelous works among all the | peoples!

FOR GREAT IS THE LORD, AND GREATLY | TO BE PRAISED;*

HE IS TO BE FEARED A- | BOVE ALL GODS.

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless | idols,*
but the LORD made the | heavens.

SPLENDOR AND MAJESTY ARE BE- | FORE HIM;*

STRENGTH AND BEAUTY ARE IN HIS SANCTU- | ARY.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the | peoples,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength!

ASCRIBE TO THE LORD THE GLORY | DUE HIS NAME;*

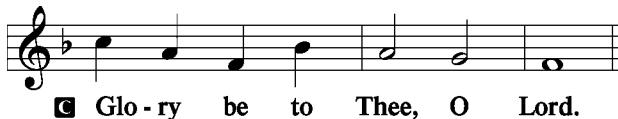
BRING AN OFFERING, AND COME IN- | TO HIS COURTS!

Worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness;*
tremble before Him, | all the earth!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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



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 great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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 our Lord.

**GRADUAL HYMN**LSB 380 v. 3 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

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 \ddagger OF THE WORLD TO COME. AMEN.

Please be seated.

SERMON HYMN LSB 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder**SERMON**

Please stand.

OFFERTORY

Create in Me

Pages 192-193



C 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

Hymn: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

1. God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
2. In Bethlehem, in Israe
This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn
The which His Mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
3. Fear not then, said the Angel
Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
4. God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

PREFACE

Page 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 un - to the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Page 195

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

Page 196

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Page 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*The Peace of the Lord*

Page 197

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

A - men.

Please be seated

AGNUS DEI*Lamb of God*

Page 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.

Prayer before Communing: 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.

DISTRIBUTION

Hymn: LSB 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn: LSB 364 Away in a Manger

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.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the true Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His most precious Blood, strengthen you in true faith, granting you the forgiveness of sins, unto life everlasting. Depart in peace.

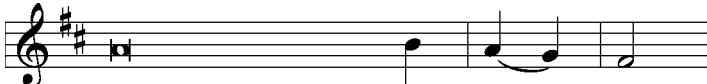
C: AMEN.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLELSB 386 *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*THANKSGIVING

Pages 200-01



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



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Gospel of the Incarnation - John 1:1-14

(during the reading, acolytes will light tapers from the Christ-Candle, then take them to the congregation to light the individual candles)

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: Christ, our Lord:

C: BRING PEACE ON EARTH.

P: Christ, our Lord:

C: BRING JOY TO THE WORLD.

P: Christ, our Lord:

C: BRING HELP TO THE POOR.

P: Christ, our Lord:

C: BRING RENEWAL TO THE CHURCH.

P: Christ, our Lord:

C: BRING US THE LIGHT OF YOUR TRUTH.

HYMN *LSB 363 "Silent Night, Holy Night"*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
 vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,
 Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text (sts. 1–3) and Music: Public domain

BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, Father, \pm Son and Holy Spirit, keep you in His light and truth and love, now and forever.

C: AMEN.

(please extinguish candles)

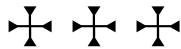
CLOSING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387

SILENT PRAYER

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**POSTLUDE****Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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PASTOR - The Rev. Barry Long, Pastor