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# The Nativity of Our Lord ~ Christmas Day

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

9:00 AM SERVICE

+ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP +

CHORAL DIVINE WORSHIP

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## 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 387 "Joy to the World"

(the congregation speaks those portions printed in **C: CAPITAL LETTERS**)

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: AMEN.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: BUT IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, GOD, WHO IS FAITHFUL AND JUST, WILL FORGIVE OUR SINS AND CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**

*(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.


**C: AMEN.**

**INTROIT HYMN**      *LSB 389 "Let All Together Praise Our God"*

**KYRIE**

*Lord Have Mercy*

*Page 186*



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

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

*Glory to God in the Highest*

*Page 187-89*



♩ 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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray . . . .

**C: ALMIGHTY GOD, GRANT THAT THE BIRTH OF YOUR ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON IN THE FLESH MAY SET US FREE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, OUR LORD, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.**

**FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**PSALMODY** Psalm 2

*(Sung responsively by verse)*



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 ANOINTED, | SAYING,**  
"Let us burst their | bonds apart\*  
and cast away their | cords from us."

**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."**

I will tell of | the decree:\*

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten You.

**ASK OF ME, AND I WILL MAKE THE NATIONS YOUR | HERITAGE,\*  
AND THE ENDS OF THE EARTH YOUR POS- | SESSION.**

You shall break them with a | rod of iron\*  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's | vessel."

**NOW THEREFORE, O | KINGS, BE WISE;\***

**BE WARNED, O RULERS | OF THE EARTH.**

Serve the | LORD with fear,\*  
and rejoice with | trembling.

**KISS THE SON, LEST HE BE ANGRY, AND YOU PERISH IN THE WAY, FOR HIS  
WRATH IS QUICKLY | KINDLED.\***

**BLESSED ARE ALL WHO TAKE REF- | UGE IN HIM.**

**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.**

## SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, Whom He appointed the heir of all things, through Whom also He created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten You"? Or again, "I will be to Him a father, and He shall be to Me a son"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "Let all God's angels worship Him." <sup>7</sup>Of the angels He says, "He makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire." <sup>8</sup>But of the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions." <sup>10</sup>And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment, <sup>12</sup>like a robe You will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end."

P: This is the word of the Lord.

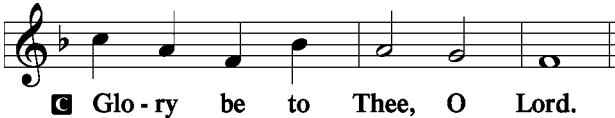
**C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

ALLELUIA



### INTRODUCTION

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



### GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-18

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through Him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup>He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about Him, and cried out, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, Who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

### RESPONSE

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



### SERMON HYMN    *LSB 384 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

SERMONCONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

p.191

**C: I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH AND OF ALL THINGS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE.**

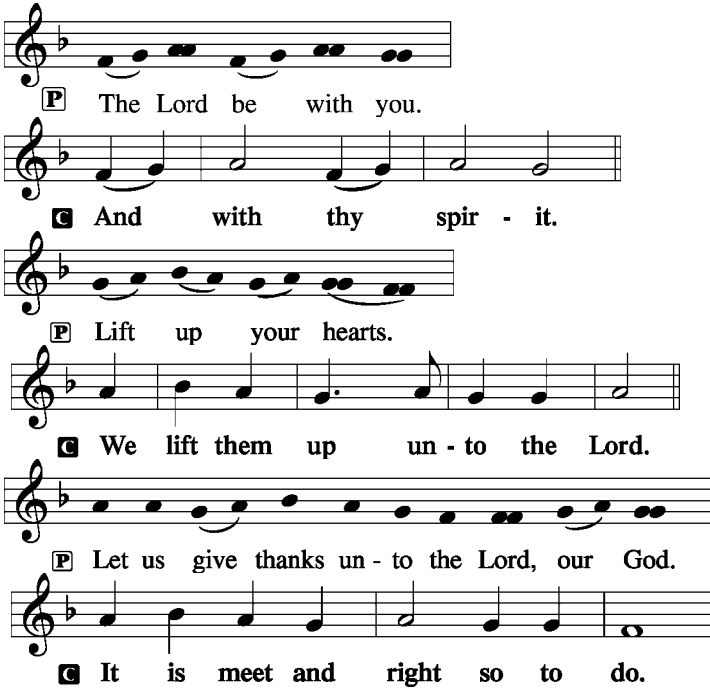
**AND IN ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD, BEGOTTEN OF HIS FATHER BEFORE ALL WORLDS, GOD OF GOD, LIGHT OF LIGHT, VERY GOD OF VERY GOD, BEGOTTEN, NOT MADE, BEING OF ONE SUBSTANCE WITH THE FATHER, BY WHOM ALL THINGS WERE MADE; WHO FOR US MEN AND FOR OUR SALVATION CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN 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**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCHOFFERTORY*LSB 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

PREFACE

p.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.

**P:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, 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

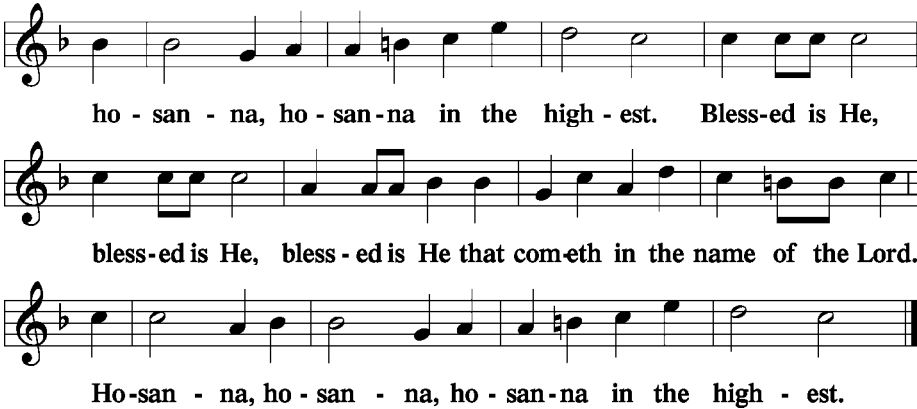
p.195



**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

**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

p.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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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"*

p.197



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.  
**G** A - men.

**AGNUS DEI***"Lamb of God"*

p.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.

**DISTRIBUTION**

*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.*

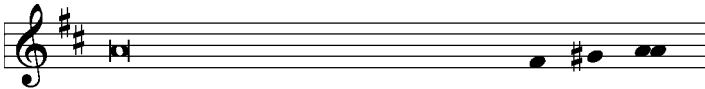
**Hymn:** LSB 380 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*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: And now, the true body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His most precious blood strengthen you in faith unto life everlasting. Depart in Peace.

**C: AMEN.**

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**    *LSB 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.

**SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS***Pages 201-02*

**P** The Lord be with you.



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



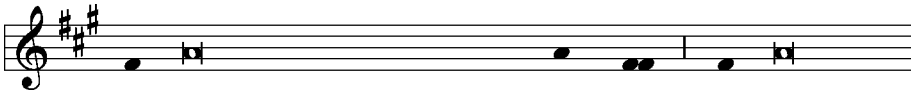
**A** Bless we the Lord.



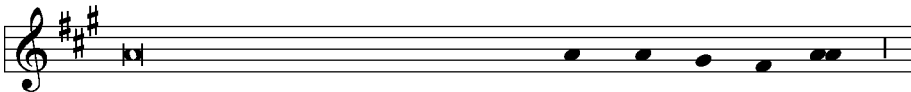
**G** Thanks be to God.

## **BENEDICTION**

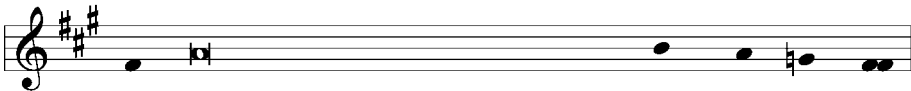
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**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**G** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## **CLOSING HYMN** LSB 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

## **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**

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