

## **CHRISTMAS EVE ~ Dec. 24, 2024, 2:00 PM ~ communion**

### **AS WE GATHER**

“All is calm, all is bright.” Is it really? We sing those words from the hymn “Silent Night, Holy Night” every Christmas Eve. Yet the world in which we live is in so many ways neither calm nor bright. War, violence, shootings, unending anxiety: these are anything but calm and bright. Yet we sing. Why? Because the calmness and brightness of which we sing on Christmas Eve comes not from politics or laws or humanity’s ability to overcome obstacles; it comes from God. “Glory to God in the highest,” sings the multitude of angels to the shepherds, “and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14). In Christ, we are given peace beyond human understanding, peace flowing from God to us, peace that comes from God’s self-sacrificing love. So filled with hope, we join the angel chorus and sing of the peace found only in Jesus.

### **Welcome & Announcements**

#### **#377 ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING**

- 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.”**

Text: English Text: Public domain

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Isaiah 9:2; 2 Samuel 22:29*

**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
**C** **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light  
shined.**

**P** You are my lamp, O LORD,  
**C** **and my God lightens my darkness.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Romans 13:11–12*

**P** The apostle Paul reminds us, “You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” In order to hear again the beautiful Good News of how the Savior of the world came to save us all, let us confess our need to hear, to repent of our sin and to believe.

**C** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, I confess to You once again this night that I have walked in the darkness of sin, that I have sinned in the shadows of my conscience and in words and actions toward others; all of it in disobedience to Your commands. I pray You to send forth the light and truth of Your Son, my Savior. Have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

**P** The Lord sends out His light and His truth to find you and to save you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. 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

*Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6*

**C** When all was still, and it was midnight,  
Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

**P** Why do the nations rage

**C** and the peoples plot in vain?

**P** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,

**C** against the LORD and against His anointed.

**P** He who sits in the heavens laughs;

**C** the Lord holds them in derision.

**P** Then He will speak to them in His wrath,

**C** and terrify them in His fury, saying,

**P** “As for Me, I have set My King

**C** 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 beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Text: ESV®

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## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

O God of light, on the night of the birth of the Savior of the world, Your holy angels sang of Your glory. Grant that Your Word as a lamp unflinchingly pierces the darkness of our earthbound way, showing us Your grace and enlightening our path with Your holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 9:2–7*

<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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*Titus 2:11–14*

<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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE

*Luke 2:11*

**P** Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,

**C** **who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1–20*

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world  
should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was  
governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And  
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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with  
child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And

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.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And 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.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## JESUS TIME FOR THE KIDS

### #380 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the\_angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain**

**Refrain    Hark! The herald angels sing,  
              “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**2    Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
      Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
          Late in time behold Him come,  
          Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
      Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
      Hail the incarnate Deity!  
      Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
      Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain**

**3    Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
      Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
          Light and life to all He brings,  
          Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
      Mild He lays His glory by,  
      Born that man no more may die,  
      Born to raise the sons of earth,  
      Born to give them second birth. Refrain**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

**SERMON ~ “Fear Not”; Luke 2:1-20; Pastor Zobel**

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
      maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
      who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
      born of the virgin Mary,  
      suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
      was crucified, died and was buried.  
      He descended into hell.  
      The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY~ #357 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL vs. 1 & 6**

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

**Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (suggestions)**

**P** Let us pray.

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting Light:

**C O Christ, Redeemer, save us all and hear Thy servants when they call.**



**P** O God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, the wonder and beauty of Your creation is surpassed only by the awe and miracle that You became one with us in the incarnation of the Son of God, the Son of Mary. Thou, grieving that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,

**C** **hast found the healing, full of grace, to cure and save our ruined race.**

**P** O Jesus Christ, true Son of God, You came into the world to save sinners. Come now to us in Word and Sacrament to give us life by living in us. O Thou, whose coming is with dread to judge the living and the dead,

**C** **preserve us from the ancient foe while still we dwell on earth below.**

**P** O Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, move us to truly repent of our sins and more truly to be filled with faith in Christ, our life. As the angels revealed to Mary and Joseph the miracle of Your visitation and to the shepherds the majesty of the incarnation of Your Son and to the Wise Men the holiness of the gift of Your salvation, so continue to send forth preachers of Your Word and witnesses of Your truth, that many may come to believe in Your love and receive eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Inspire those whom you send to preach and proclaim Your salvation, that they may remain steadfast in the clarity and purpose of Your Word. Fill the entire earth with the beautiful news of Your grace and mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** For all who are in any need—all who suffer illness, injury, or any adversity—send Your healing and help, forgiveness and strength. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Give to all who have died in Christ Your safekeeping and peace. Bring us all at last to the great joy of our resurrection and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P** **hear our prayer.**

**P** To God the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, Three in One,

**C** **praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.**

## **PREFACE**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

**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 saying:

## **SANCTUS ~ #368 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH vs. 1**

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

**Refrain** **Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

**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

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

**C** Amen.

**AGNUS DEI ~ #368 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH vs. 3&4**

**Refrain   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**

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

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**DISTRIBUTIONS HYMNS:**

**#379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**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**

**Refrain   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**

- 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

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
Text: Public domain

### **#412 THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT**

- 1 The people that in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long  
In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.
- 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,  
The gath'ring nations come;  
They joy as when the reapers bear  
Their harvest treasures home,  
Their harvest treasures home.
- 3 To us a Child of hope is born,  
To us a Son is giv'n,  
And on His shoulder ever rests  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
- 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art  
And Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

Text: John Morison, 1749–98, alt.

Text: Public domain

### **#343 PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY**

1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

Refrain Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfill's God's Word!

2 God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain

- 4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding: Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005556

### **#366 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR**

- 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.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its babel sounds  
The blessed 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.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass  
By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years  
Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth  
God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.

Text: Public domain

### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

*LSB 384:5*

**P** Let us pray.  
Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore.

**C** Amen.

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

### **#363 SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT**

*sts. 1–3*

**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.**

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85  
Text: Public domain

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