

December 24, 2025 7:30 p.m.

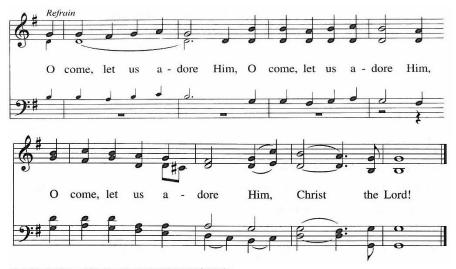
#### **AS WE GATHER**

We come together to celebrate Christmas. Many times, our celebrations come with lots of music, decorations, joyous conversations, and laughter, and we cannot forget the presents under the tree and the stockings hung by the chimney with care. Yet there is a different reality we encounter tonight. We see the glory of the Lord descending to us in the Christ Child, who was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger. And in Him, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met" tonight as we join our voices with the angels, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" (LSB 361:1; Luke 2:14).

#### **₩** PREPARATION **₩**

The Advent wreath is lit with the other candles as the hymn is sung.





Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.:
 Spanish tr. Juan Bautista Cabrera, 1837–1916
 Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, setting: The Hymnal 1940

## INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the 

  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## **OPENING SENTENCES** Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:8–9

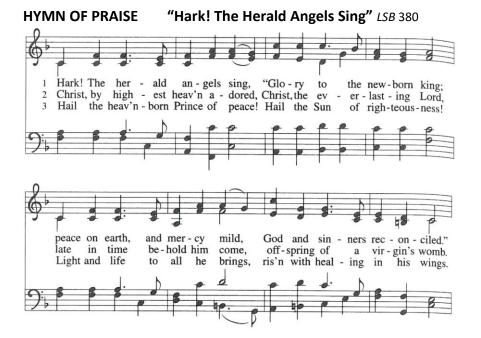
- The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
- those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
- There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

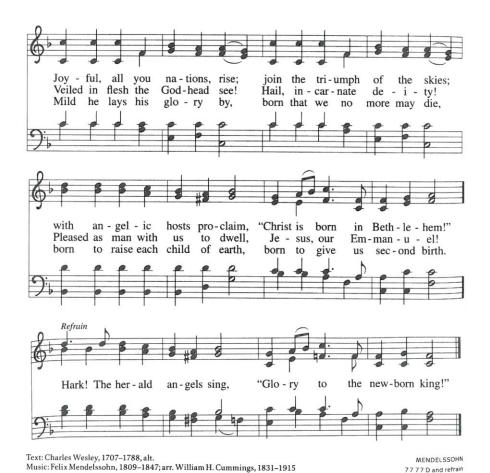
## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** Luke 2:10, 14

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,

- we gather on this night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.
- The angel said to the shepherds, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people." The baby born in Bethlehem came to save us. We rejoice in the good news that the almighty and merciful Lord grants us pardon, forgiveness and remission of all our sins.
- C Amen.
- Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
- "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

#### ₩ WORD ₩





SALUTATION

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 9:2–7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us. a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

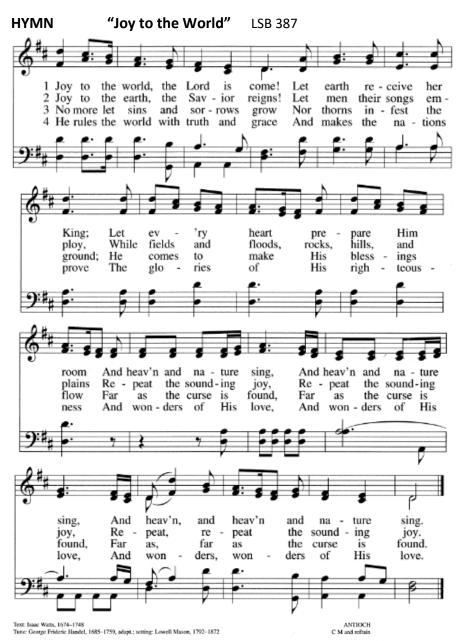
#### **PSALM** Psalm 96



- Sing to the Lord a néw song,\*
  sing to the Lord, / all the whole éarth.
- Sing to the Lord and <u>bless</u> his náme;\*
  proclaim the good news of his salvation from <u>day</u> to dáy.
  - Declare his glory among the nátions\* and his wonders among all péoples.
  - For great is the Lord and greatly <u>to</u> be práised;\* he is more to be feared than all góds.
  - As for all the gods of the nations, they <u>are</u> but idols;\* but it is the Lord who made the héavens.
  - Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his présence!\*
    Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuáry!
  - Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the péoples;\* ascribe to the Lord honor and pówer.
  - Ascribe to the Lord the honor <u>due</u> his náme;\* bring offerings and come into his courts.
  - Worship the Lord in the beauty of <u>ho</u>linéss;\* let the whole earth trem<u>ble</u> befóre him.
  - **Tell it out among the nations:** / (breathe)

"The Lord is king!"

- He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; / he will judge the peoples with e-quitý."
- Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; /
  let the sea thunder and all that is in it;\*
  let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for → joy before the Lord when he comes,\* when he comes to judge the éarth.
- He will judge the world with <u>right</u>eousnéss,\* and the peoples <u>with</u> his trúth.



Test and music: Public domain

Psain 98; Row. 5:16-19; Rev. 22:1-5

**EPISTLE** *Titus 2:11–14* (God's grace has appeared, bringing salvation.)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

CHOIR "Ding! Dong! Merrily on High"

Ruth Morris Gray

Choir and Hope Dwyer, Chimes

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 2:1–20* (The birth of the Christ Child)

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. C Praise to You, O Christ.

## **CREED** Nicene Creed

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 and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made truly human;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

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.

He suffered and was buried.

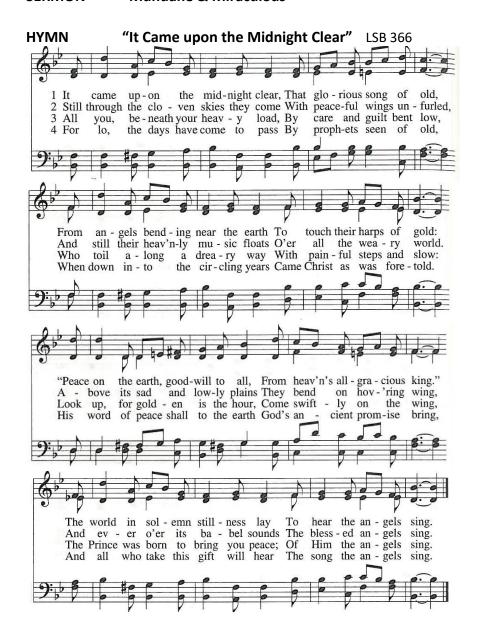
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,

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.

#### SERMON "Mundane & Miraculous"



#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Let us pray for ourselves, for all who celebrate our Lord's birth this day, for all the body of Christ, and for all people according to their needs:
- L O Wonderful Counselor
- hear our prayer and grant us Your peace.
- L O Mighty God,
- open our eyes to see Your mighty works. Open our minds to Your Word that Your truth may rest in us.
- L O Everlasting Father,
- use the witness of our words and deeds to proclaim Your seeking and saving love to those around us. Open our eyes to the needs of those around us and inspire us to be agents of comfort to the distressed and instruments of healing and relief to the sick and suffering, especially those we name before You in our hearts. (Silence for Reflection)
- L O Prince of Peace,
- give us the peace that passes all understanding, that we may trust that You have come into our imperfect world and brought the perfect gift of salvation and have freely given it to us.
- L O Immanuel
- receive our worship and adoration, our time and talents, and the firstfruits of our incomes that we bring in grateful praise to the mystery of the Word made flesh.

Silence for personal prayer.

- In Your hands, O gracious Lord, we place our prayer, we offer our praise, and we commend ourselves and our loved ones, trusting in Your mercy and having confidence in Your love, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever.
- C Amen.

#### **▼ SACRAMENT**

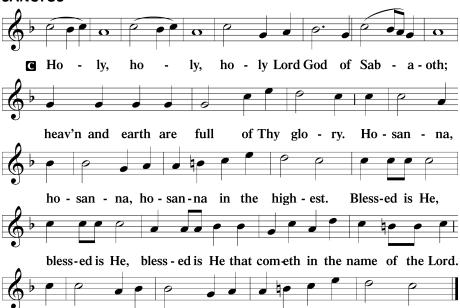
## PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

#### PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, our Savior, Christ the Lord, for You descended from Your heavenly throne to be born of a virgin in the city of David, wrapped in swaddling cloths, laid in a manger to be our Immanuel, God with us, and to save Your people from their sins. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the heavenly host, we praise and honor Your glorious name and join in their unending hymn.





Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, the Child who was born, the Son who was given and was born in the city of David, our Savior, Christ the Lord. We celebrate the grace of God appearing, bringing salvation for all people.

Gathered this night, we remember Your birth and celebrate the gifts of Your life, death, and resurrection. Forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat at Your banquet Table and receive Your body and blood to redeem and purify us. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver us from our fears, and give us peace and favor; for You rule and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

# **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  $\maltese$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** 1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

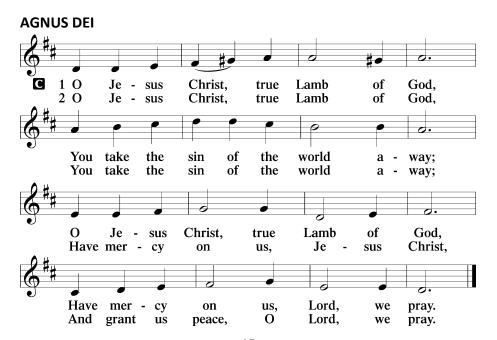
- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

#### PAX DOMINI

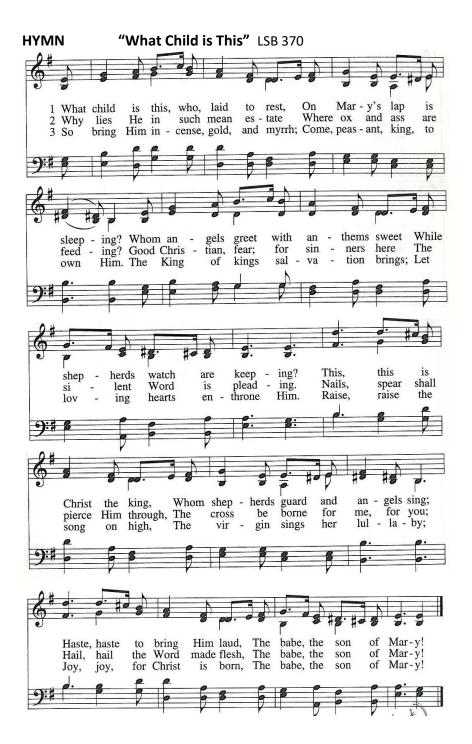
P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C Amen.



#### DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to approach the altar as space is available. Open your hand to receive the bread (Gluten-free wafers are available, simply ask). You may receive either an individual cup of wine or grape juice, or the common cup.







#### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We thank You this night for the glory of the Lord appearing to us in, with, and under the bread and wine to give us forgiveness and peace. Renew our hearts and lives so we may reveal Your grace and favor to the world; for You live and reign as one God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - now and forever.

C Amen.

#### CANDLE LIGHTING

The candles are distributed and lit. Tip only your unlit candle.

Follow the Pastor in raising and lowering the candles during the singing of Silent Night.



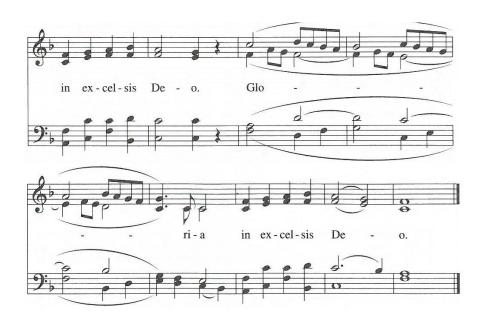
#### **BENEDICTION** Romans 15:13

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

## C Amen.





**POSTLUDE** 

"Joy to The World"

Handel

Emily & Olivia Smith, flute

Our Confession about Communion

#### Our Confession

- 1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.
- 2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."
- 3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

- a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession:
- b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

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