

# THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

## THE CONFESSION

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

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

**C: Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: In his name let us make confession of our sins. For his sake let us seek forgiveness

*(Silence for meditation and self-examinations)*

P: Father in heaven,

**C: We do not deserve to be called your children, for we have disobeyed. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We deserve your wrath and punishment.**

P: "His name shall be called JESUS, for he will save his people from their sins."

**C: It is in the name of Jesus that we come before you, heavenly Father, pleading the merits of his holy life, his innocent suffering and death.**

P: Good news! Great joy! A Child is born to us, a Son to us is given, a Savior, Christ the Lord!

**C: "He shall save his people from their sins."**

P: All who receive him, who believe in his name, are given power to become the children of God.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

P: And peace to God's people on earth.

**C: Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

**THE HYMN: - "Hark, the Glad Sound!"**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,  
you wonderfully created  
and yet more wonderfully restored  
the dignity of human nature.  
In your mercy,  
let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ  
who came to share our humanity,  
and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

## THE FIRST AND SECOND LESSONS

## THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

## THE OFFICE HYMN – "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

## THE HOMILY: "Carols"

## THE APOSTLES CREED

**CONG: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of  
the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,**


**the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

#### **THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,  
**People: Hear our prayer.**

#### **THE OFFERTORY AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**

#### **THE BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.  
**People: Amen.**

#### **THE RECESSIONAL HYMN – “Joy to the World”**

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God. Amen**