

CHRISTMAS EVE 8PM

Dec. 24, Anno Domini (The Year of Our LORD)
2025

✠ Preparation ✠

Welcome and Connection Cards

Cross Processional

At the beginning of the hymn, the congregation stands, turns and faces the Cross, turning to follow as it moves to the place of prominence at the front of the sanctuary.

Processional Hymn –“ 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*
Ref. 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*

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

Text: Public domain

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the Name of the LORD,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O LORD, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

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 together,
against the LORD and against his anointed.
He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the LORD holds them in derision.
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 beginning,
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.

Hymn of Praise - LSB 368 - Angels We Have Heard on High

- Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*
- Ref.* Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*
- 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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The LORD be with you.
C And also with you.
P 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.

LSB 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 you nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

Ref. 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

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

After the reading:

- L** This is the Word of the LORD.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn -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 hovering 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.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11–14

After the reading:

- [L]** This is the Word of the LORD.
[C] Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



**All: Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city
 of David a Savior, who is Christ the LORD.
 Alleluia.**



Holy Gospel

- [P]** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew,
 the second chapter.
[C] Glory to You, O LORD.

After the reading:

- [P]** This is the Gospel of the LORD.
[C] Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

**All: 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.**

Sit

Hymn of the Day -From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

1. "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:
2. "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
5. "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
8. Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.
15. Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

"A Child"

Isaiah 9:6

Prayer of the Church

The congregation now greets one another in the Name of the LORD, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Pax Domini

P May the Christmas peace of the LORD be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering - "Shepherd's Joy" by Parker and Hayes, sung by the choir

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.

The Lighting of the Candles

As the usher(s) begin lighting candles at the front of the sanctuary, please dip your unlit candle's wick into the flame of the lit candle, and then candles may be lit down the pew.

Closing Hymn - LSB 363 - Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1-3

(Normal volume – we sing a cappella)

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.

(Louder, with organ)

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!

(Quiet and contemplative)

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, LORD, at Your birth,
Jesus, LORD, at Your birth.

Text: Public domain

All are invited to pause to savor the candlelight and quiet fellowship on this most holy night. Feel free to take time to pray or meditate on the scriptures. Then go your way to family and celebration in peace.