

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2021 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

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 for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7

Anthem

"One Small Child"

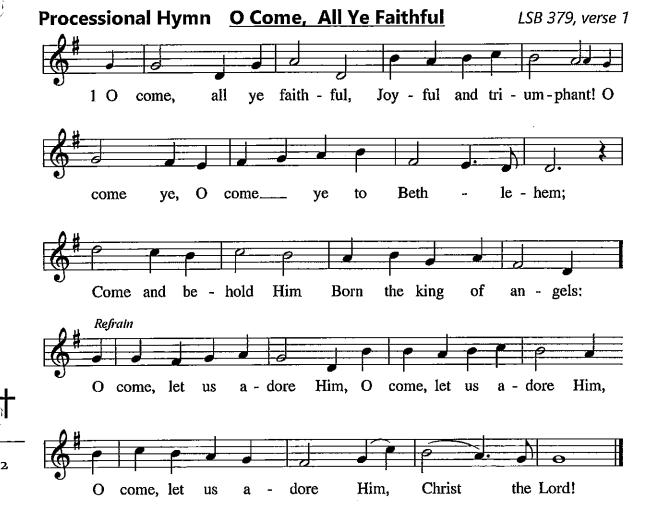
Adult Choir

Welcome

Remembrance of Baptism

Stand as you are able and turn to the processional cross. Sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Baptism.

- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C Amen.



- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- **C** For unto us a Son is given.
- **P** To us a Son is born.
- And the government shall be upon his shoulder.
- P And his name shall be called—
- **W**onderful Counselor, Mighty God.
- **P** Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Let us worship the newborn King!

Opening Hymn - From Heaven Above to Earth I Come LSB 358, verses 1-3



Confession and Forgiveness

- P Heavenly Father, through your Son Jesus, you invite us to lay down our great fears and enter into your great joy.
- **B** But instead we often fasten on to our fears.
- P We wallow in our worries.
- We drown in our depression.
- **P** We suffer in our sin.
- **©** We forfeit your forgiveness.

- P We get lost in our grudges.
- We refuse your joy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You are invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.

- With great love and mercy the angel says, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). On the cross, Jesus carried your sin and shame and rising again he defeated every enemy. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).
- **C** Let us worship the newborn King!

Prayer of the Day

- O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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.

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

Epistle

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:1-20

- P Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son. Hallelujah!

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, 5to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" 15When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And 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.
- Praise to you, O Christ.



LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie! 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove

3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by; While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love. So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless-ings of His heav'n.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light. O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth, No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

Christmas Message

"The Time Came"

Pastor Scott Henze

Confession of Faith

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.

Gathering of Gifts

"The First Noel"

Adult Choir

+

"God so loved the world that He gave..." We reflect our heavenly Father's own giving heart with our gifts.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray: Merciful God, it would have been enough for You to give us the fruit of the earth by which we live. But in this meal, by Your promise, You also give us Yourself. Use what we have gathered here to share Your love with the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- **P** With great joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the joy from above that radiates Christ's love into our hearts and homes; let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the angel's message, "Fear not," that banishes all anxiety and worry; let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the Christmas Gospel, for it to be preached in every church and throughout the world—to one and all; let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy. Amen.

A note about Communion: We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.

Ushers will release you through the center isle. Please follow the hearts on the floor to receive communion. Hold out your hands as the pastor or lay minister drops the wafer into your hands. Move to the side to take the wafer. Proceed to the communion assistant to receive the wine by individual cups.

Stand as you are able.

Great Thanksgiving

Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- 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.





Peace of the Lord

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

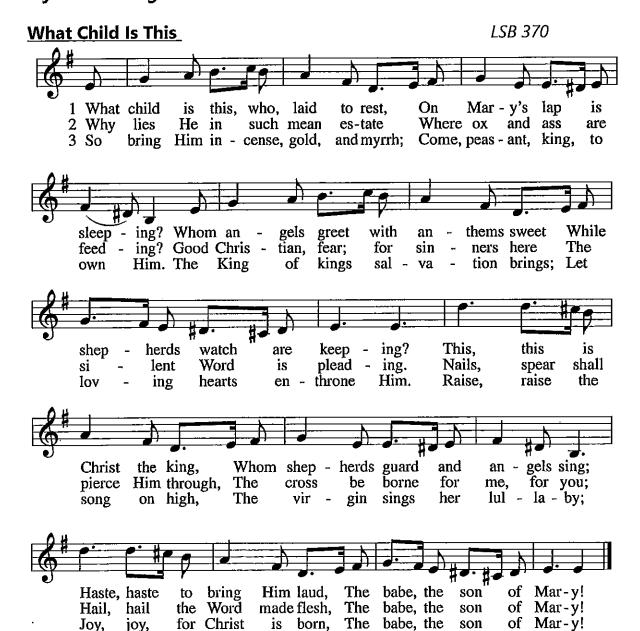
The Lord's Prayer

8

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.

Hymns During Distribution

Bell Choir Anthem



Angels We Have Heard on High

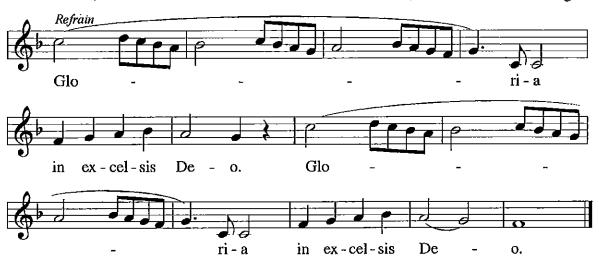
LSB 368



- 1 An gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er 2 Shep-herds, why this ju bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains the plains,
- pro-long?
- 3 Come to Beth-le-hem and see Him whose birth the



And the moun-tains in re-ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in-spire your heav'n - ly song? Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Post Communion Prayer

- P Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen Your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on Your grace. May Your Word take flesh in us, that we may be Your holy people, revealing Your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- Amen. C

Candle Lighting Ceremony



The use of candles in this special service symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world. Each worshiper is given a candle to hold as a reminder that we carry the light of Christ with us everywhere we go—in our work, our neighborhoods, our schools, and our homes.

The candle in the center of the Advent wreath is a Christ candle, symbolizing that Christ is the light of the world. The candle-lighting this evening begins with the Pastor lighting his candle from the Christ Candle. He then lights the ushers' candles. The ushers then share that light across the congregation. (Please be sure to hold lit candles upright. The candle being lit should be dipped into the flame of the lit candle.)

As the light spreads and grows we rejoice that Christ did indeed come into our world. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Soloist

O Holy Night

Bianca Jaramillo

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 ... Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life."

You are the Light of the World ... Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to Your Father who is in heaven.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all with whom He is pleased!"





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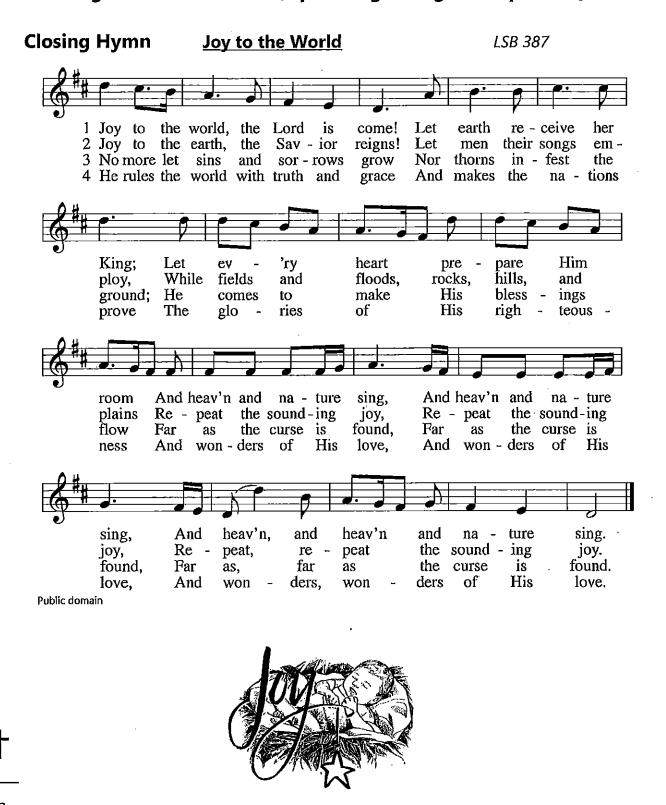
The Christmas Collect

- P All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of Your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Benediction

- May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi and the peace of the Christ Child. And may the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forevermore!
- **C** Let us worship the newborn King!

We go out into the world, spreading the light and peace of Christ.



Dismissal

- Glory to God in the Highest!
- Peace to God's people on earth!
- P As heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Thank-you to the many musicians, ushers, and assistants who gave of their time and talent this evening!

Please join us tomorrow, December 25 for Christmas Day Service at 11:00 AM

