



*Nativity of Our Lord  
Christmas Eve  
12/24/23  
Lutheran Book of Worship Holy Communion Setting One*

**GOD GATHERS US AS HIS HOLY PEOPLE.**

The hymns this evening are printed in the bulletin.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

PRELUDE & WELCOME

*In remembrance of Baptism, you may sign a cross on your chest or forehead.*

We gather to worship the One true God – the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (LBW p. 56)

*Matthew 28:19; 1 John 1:8-10*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*We keep silence for self-reflection and contrition.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OFFERING OF PEACE (LBW p. 66)

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

*John 20:19-21*

**As God has given us peace by the forgiveness of our sins, so let us forgive and share his peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ.**

*Please, remain standing as you are able for the hymn.*

GATHERING HYMN “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve” LBW #69 *Omit verse 5.*

1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, The night of Je - sus' birth!  
 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, He was a king in - deed!  
 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, The Son of God to - day;  
 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;

Then like the sun the star shone forth, And an - gels sang on earth.  
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove To help a world in need.  
 And still he loves his lit - tle ones And hears them when they pray.  
 He o - pens now for ev - 'ry child The pal - ace of the king.

*For use in the home*

5 When mother trims the Christmas tree  
 Which fills the room with light,  
 She tells me of the wondrous star  
 That made the dark world bright.

6 And so I love each Christmas Eve,  
 And I love Jesus too;  
 And that he loves me every day  
 I know so well is true.

© Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Soeeggen, 1881-1939  
 Tune: Peder Knudsen, 1819-1863

JEG ER SAA GLAD  
 CM

**AFFIRMATION OF PURPOSE**

*Matthew 28:18-20, 22:36-39; Mark 12:30-31*

We are Joy Mission Church, missionary-disciples of Jesus Christ.  
 We love God, love neighbor, and serve with joy in Jesus' name.

**APOSTOLIC GREETING (LBW p. 57)**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LBW #60

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled."  
 Late in time be-hold him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!  
 Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
 Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

MENDELSSOHN  
 77 77 D and refrain

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. **O God, you have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-14

<sup>10</sup>Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 110:1-4 - *Psalm tone 9 - Sung in unison.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit | at my right hand,\*  
until I make your ene- | mies your footstool.”

<sup>2</sup>The Lord will send the scepter of your power | out of Zion,\*  
saying, “Rule over your enemies | round about you.

<sup>3</sup>Princely state has been yours from the day | of your birth;\*  
in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you, like dew from the womb | of the morning.”

<sup>4</sup>The Lord has sworn and he will | not recant:\* “  
You are a priest forever after the order | of Melchizedek.”

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

VERSE (LBW p. 62) *John 6:68*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ANNUNCIATION (LBW p. 63)

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the first chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.

And he called his name Jesus.


This is the Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL RESPONSE (LBW p. 63)

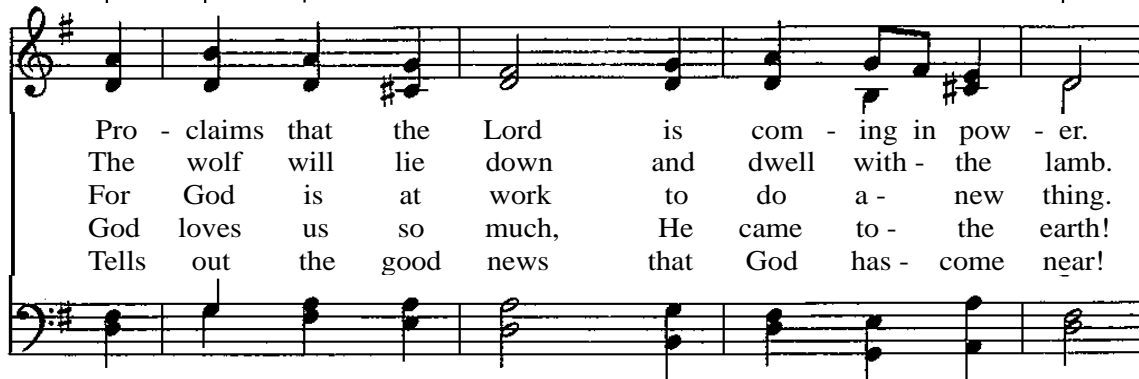
Praise to you, O Christ.  
*Please be seated.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON & WREATH LIGHTING

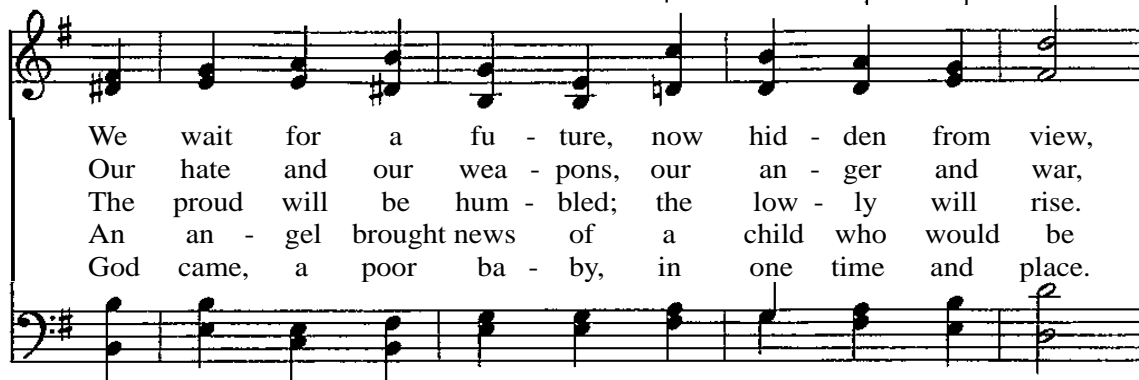
The Candle of Hope



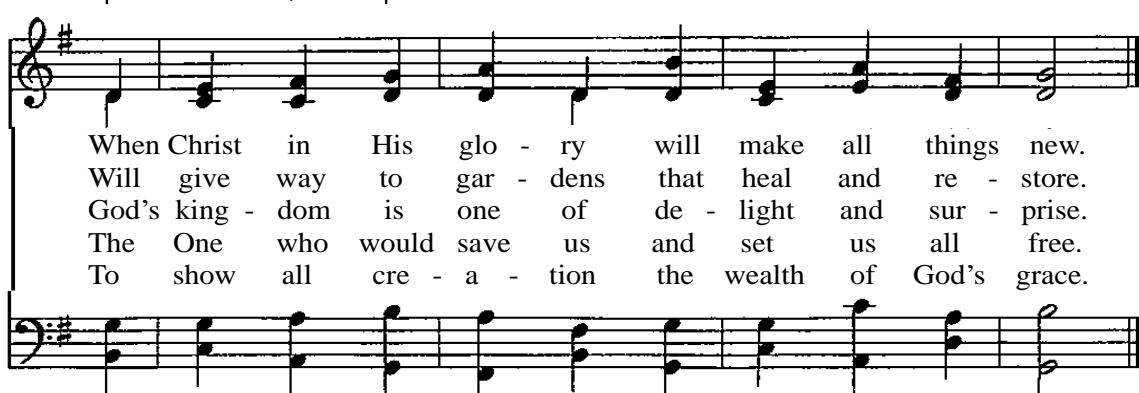
1. The can - dle of hope we light in this hour  
 2. The can - dle of peace shines bright with God's plan;  
 3. The can - dle of joy re - minds us to sing,  
 4. The can - dle of love tells what we are worth:  
 5. The Christ can - dle's light that shines for us here



Pro - claims that the Lord is com - ing in pow - er.  
 The wolf will lie down and dwell with - the lamb.  
 For God is at work to do a - new thing.  
 God loves us so much, He came to - the earth!  
 Tells out the good news that God has - come near!



We wait for a fu - ture, now hid - den from view,  
 Our hate and our wea - pons, our an - ger and war,  
 The proud will be hum - bled; the low - ly will rise.  
 An an - gel brought news of a child who would be  
 God came, a poor ba - by, in one time and place.



When Christ in His glo - ry will make all things new.  
 Will give way to gar - dens that heal and re - store.  
 God's king - dom is one of de - light and sur - prise.  
 The One who would save us and set us all free.  
 To show all cre - a - tion the wealth of God's grace.

Text: © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
 Tune: William Croft, 1678-1777

HANOVER  
 10 10 11 11

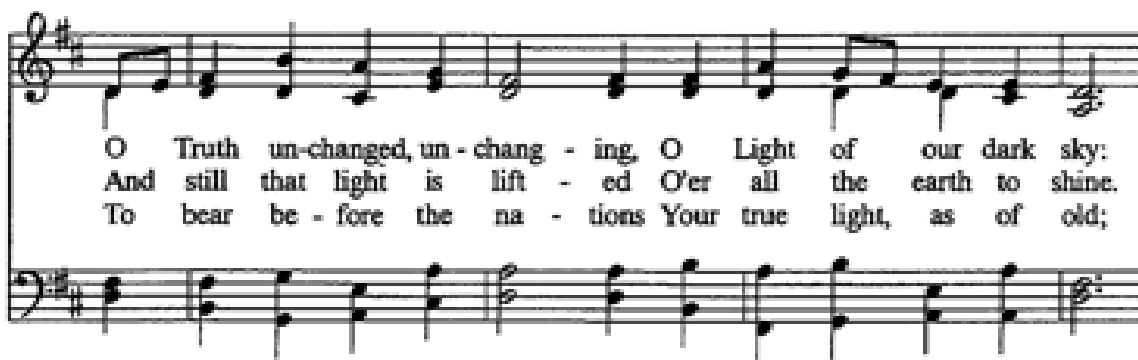
## GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND IN FAITH.

*Please stand as you are able.*

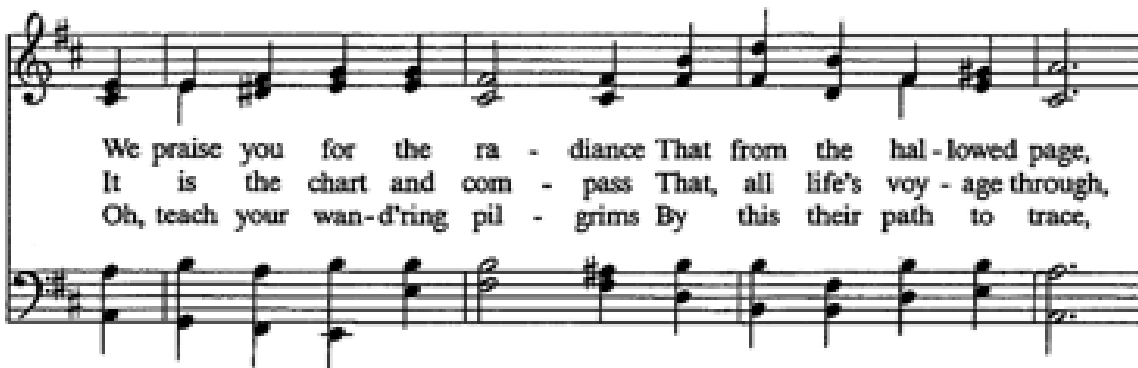
HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Word of God Incarnate" LBW #231



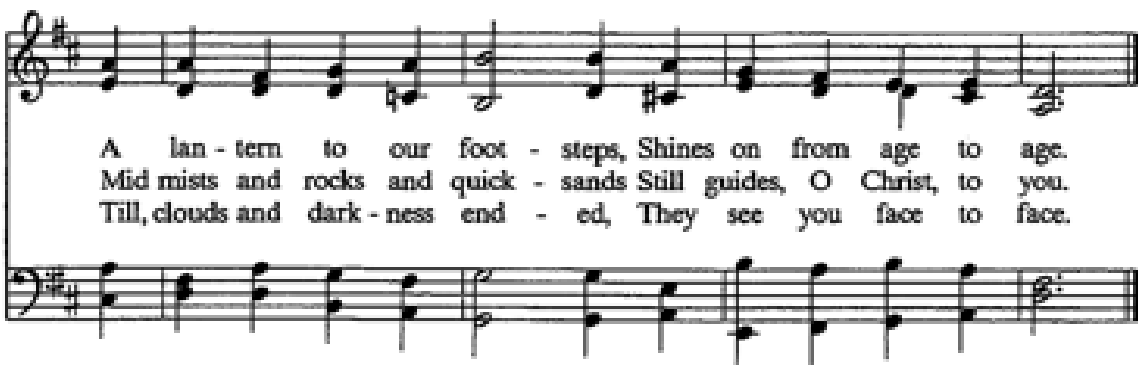
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The Church from you, dear Mas - ter, Re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 Oh, make your Church, dear Sav - ior, A lamp of bur-nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.  
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light, as of old;



We praise you for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,  
Oh, teach your wan-d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace,



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.  
Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to you.  
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see you face to face.

NICENE CREED (LBW p. 64) *Genesis 1-2; John 3:16; Luke 2; Acts 2*

Living together in the trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,  
not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day  
he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people as they have need...

*Each petition ends with these words:* Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with these words:* ...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*


#### OFFERING OF TITHES, ADDITIONAL GIFTS, AND SPECIAL MUSIC

*We offer our time, talents, and treasures in gratitude for all of the blessings God has given us.*

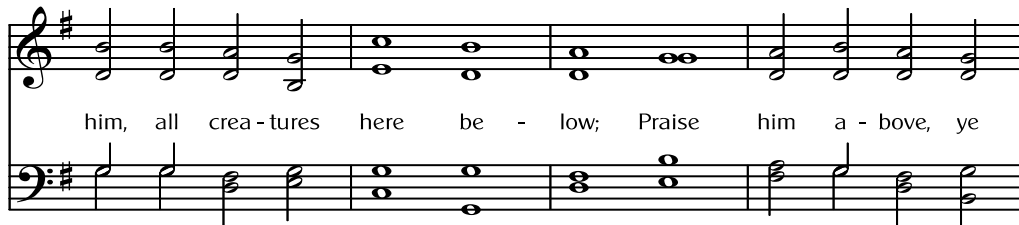


*Please stand as you are able.*

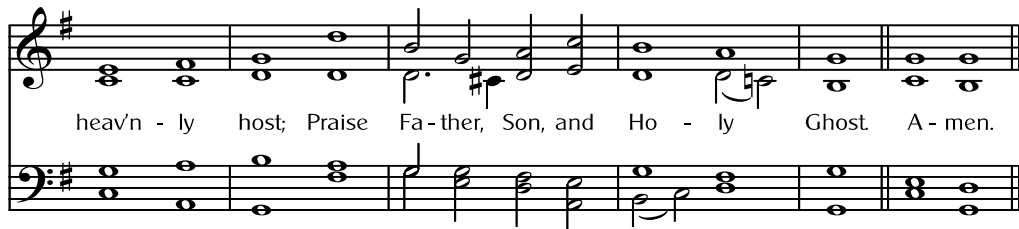
OFFERTORY HYMN: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" LBW #565



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise



him, all crea-tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye



heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost A - men.

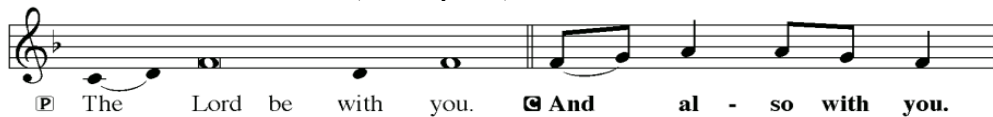
Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711  
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

OLD HUNDRETH  
LM

OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW p. 68)

Let us pray... Blessed are you, **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**


GREAT THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 68)



**☩** The Lord be with you. **☩** And al - so with you.



**☩** Lift up your hearts. **☩** We lift them to the Lord.



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



**☩** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE (LBW p. 68) *Sung or spoken by the pastor.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (“Holy” LBW p. 69)

*Psalm 118:25-26; Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:9*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (LBW, MDE p. 297)

*1 Cor. 11:23-26; Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20*

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;  
you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.  
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,  
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able;  
and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and,  
with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood  
of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.  
All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (LBW p. 71)

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

**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.**

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

COMMUNION HYMN ("Lamb of God..." LBW p. 72)

John 1:29

♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

**GOD GIVES US HIMSELF IN HIS HOLY MEAL.**

*All who are baptized and trust that Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine may come forward to commune. The usher will direct you and offer hand sanitizer if you so desire.*

- *If you require gluten-free wafers or abstain from wine, indicate so to the pastor.*
- *To receive the Sacrament in your seat, notify the usher and it will be brought to you.*
- *If you abstain from the Sacrament, you have full forgiveness of sins by God's Word alone.*

The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.** The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (LBW pp. 92)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN & CANDLE-LIGHTING:

*The usher will bring a lit candle to those seated on the inside aisle. Tip only the unlit candle into the flame of the lit candle, then pass the light to those near you. Never tip lit candles!*

**“Silent Night, Holy Night” LBW #65**

*- Organ and brass will play the hymn twice BEFORE the congregation begins singing.*

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing Al - le - lu - ia!  
 beams from your ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at your birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; trans. John F. Young, 1820-1885  
 Tune: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

STILLE NACHT  
 Irregular

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**BENEDICTION (LBW p. 74) Numbers 6:24-26**

☐ 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.

☐ A - men

DISMISSAL

Go in hope, peace, joy, and love to share the light of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

**GOD SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE.**

SENDING HYMN: "Joy to the World" LBW #39

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the world! The Sav - ior reigns: Let all their songs em -  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow, Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
ploy, While fields - and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make his bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of his right - eous -

room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759

ANTIOCH  
CM and REFRAIN

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*Please extinguish your candle and leave it in the box as you exit.  
We take the light of Christ forth into the world.*

## POSTLUDE

*Join us tomorrow morning at 11:00 a.m. for a worship service of lessons and carols.*

Love God. Love neighbor. Serve with joy in Jesus' name.

As a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church we strive to be:

**Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, & Congregationally Focused.**

Ministers: Joy Mission Church and all the people of God

Pastor: Rev. Paulette McHugh

Parish Administrator: Scheri Force

Pianist: Lavenia Hentz

Volunteer Director of Music: Laurie Lackey



[www.joymission.church](http://www.joymission.church)

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