

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

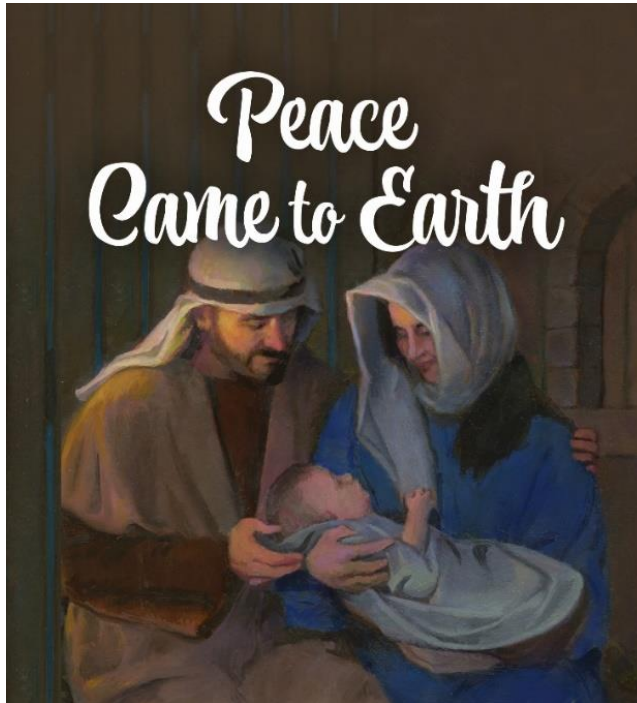
The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2023

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

10:00* am

*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)



AS WE GATHER

THE DIAMOND FOUND IN THE MANGER

Today we remember Mary and Joseph as they come to Bethlehem. We sing with the angels as they fill the sky. We run with the shepherds as they arrive on the scene. We behold the glory of God in the face of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is here we find our peace. Wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, our Prince of Peace is very much the diamond that the everlasting Father gives to us. As we gather to open His Word and sing His praises, let us rejoice in Jesus, the greatest blessing the world will ever know.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) ✠ [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) ✠ [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)

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PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS

The **Christmas Proclamation** was historically sung on December 24th as part of the daily cycle of prayers.

It is printed here for you to ponder before we begin our worship service as a reminder that the birth of Jesus Christ in the flesh is at the center of all history.

Come, let us adore Him!

The eighth day before the first of January, thirteenth day of the lunar month.

Innumerable ages having passed since the creation of the world, when in the beginning God created Heaven and earth and formed man in his own image;

many more centuries after the flood, when the Most High placed his rainbow in the heavens as a sign of the covenant and of peace;

from the migration of Abraham, our father in faith, from Ur of the Chaldeans, twenty-one centuries;

from the exodus of the people of Israel out of Egypt, led by Moses, thirteen centuries;

from the anointing of David as King, about one thousand years;

in the sixty-fifth according to Daniel's prophecy;

in the year of the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

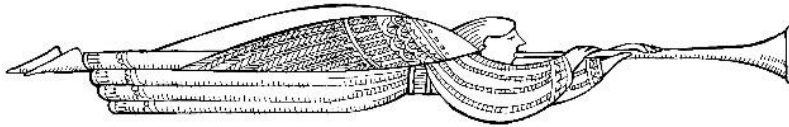
from the founding of the city of Rome, seven hundred and fifty-two years;

in the rule of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the forty-second year;

the whole world being at peace:

Jesus Christ, eternal God, the eternal Father's Son, being pleased by His coming to consecrate the world, by the Holy Spirit conceived, nine months having passed since His conception, in Bethlehem of Judah was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

The Nativity of our Lord JESUS CHRIST according to the flesh.



✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (arr. John Leavitt)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – LSB 379 – O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain



INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES - *John 1:14*

- P** And the Word became flesh
- C** and dwelt among us,
- P** and we have seen His glory,
- C** glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION – John 1:9–13

P The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

As we gather together this Christmas, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Because of the Savior who is the Word made flesh and dwelt among us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

† † † **WORD** † † †

INTROIT – Psalm 93:1–2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2

Choir: The people who walked in | darkness*
have seen a | great light;



C **those who dwelt in a land of deep | darkness,***
on them has | light shined.

Choir: The LORD reigns; He is robed in | majesty;*
the LORD is robed; He has put on strength | as His belt.

C **Yes, the world is es- | tablished,***
it shall nev- | er be moved.

Choir: Your throne is established | from of old;*
You are from ever- | lasting.

C **Your decrees are very | trustworthy,***
holiness befits Your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now and will be forever. | Amen.
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.

KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – Mark 10:47

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

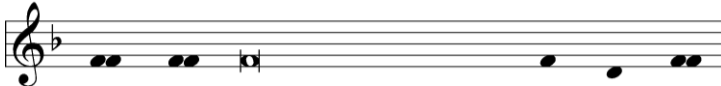
C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE – LSB 391 – Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn



Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -



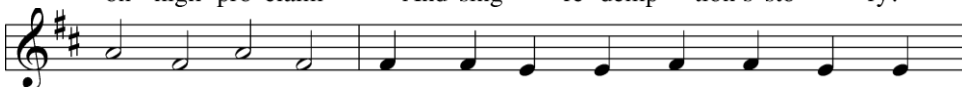
to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!



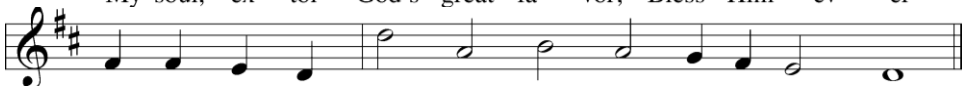
His low - ly birth in Beth-le-hem The an - gels from



on high pro-claim And sing re-demp - tion's sto - ry!



My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er



For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!



SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through 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 – Isaiah 52:7-10 – The Lord’s coming salvation

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.



A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM – Psalm 98 (with Isaac Watts’ paraphrase)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

A Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

C **The Lord has made His salvation known
and revealed His righteousness to the nations.
He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

A Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
C **Make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.**

3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

A Let the sea resound and all that is in it,
the world and all that live in it.

C **Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the people with equality.**

4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

EPISTLE – Hebrews 1:1-6 – The supremacy of God’s Son

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA and VERSE – John 1:14

The congregation sings the Alleluias before and after the appointed verse.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

HOLY GOSPEL – John 1:1-18 – The Word became flesh.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

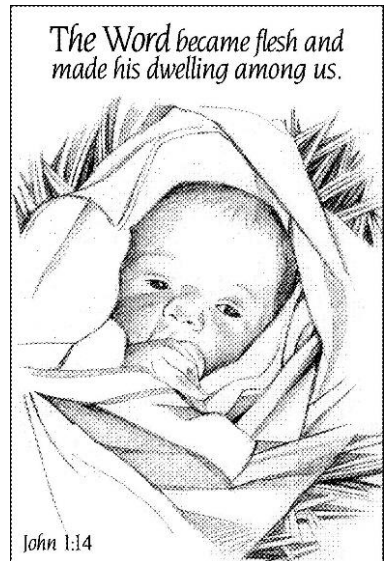
⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 384 – Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.



Text and tune: Public domain

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE – *The Diamond Found in the Manger* – Luke 2:8-20

NICENE CREED

C 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 men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. 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.

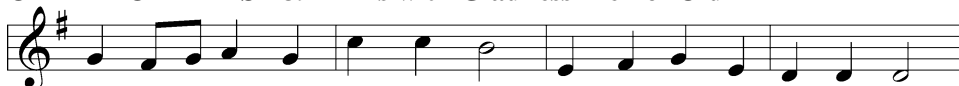
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A ... let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.
A ...one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

OFFERING – *See amid the Winter's Snow* (arr. J. Wayne Kerr)

OFFERTORY – LSB 397 – As with Gladness Men of Old



3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy cra - dle, rude and bare,



So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,



All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.

✠ ✠ ✠ SACRAMENT ✠ ✠ ✠

beginning on LSB 160

PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



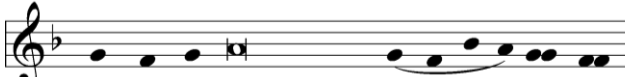
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



C 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

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comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P ...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

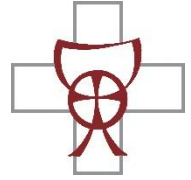
PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord – John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God – John 1:29

C 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



DISTRIBUTION

Anthem – *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (arr. Jeffrey Blersch)

*Infant holy, infant lowly
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!*

LSB 360 – All My Heart Again Rejoices



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near
2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing
Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

5 Softly from His lowly manger
Jesus calls
One and all,
"You are safe from danger.

Children, from the sins that grieve you
You are freed;
All you need
I will surely give you."

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
One and all,
Great and small,
Come with songs of gladness.

We shall live with Him forever
There on high
In that joy
Which will vanish never.

Tune and text: Public domain

LSB 373 See amid the Winter's Snow



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



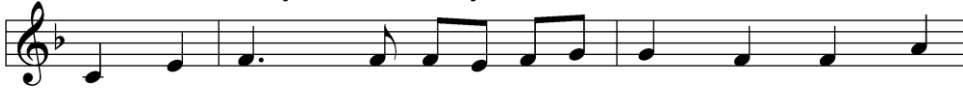
Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 376 – Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



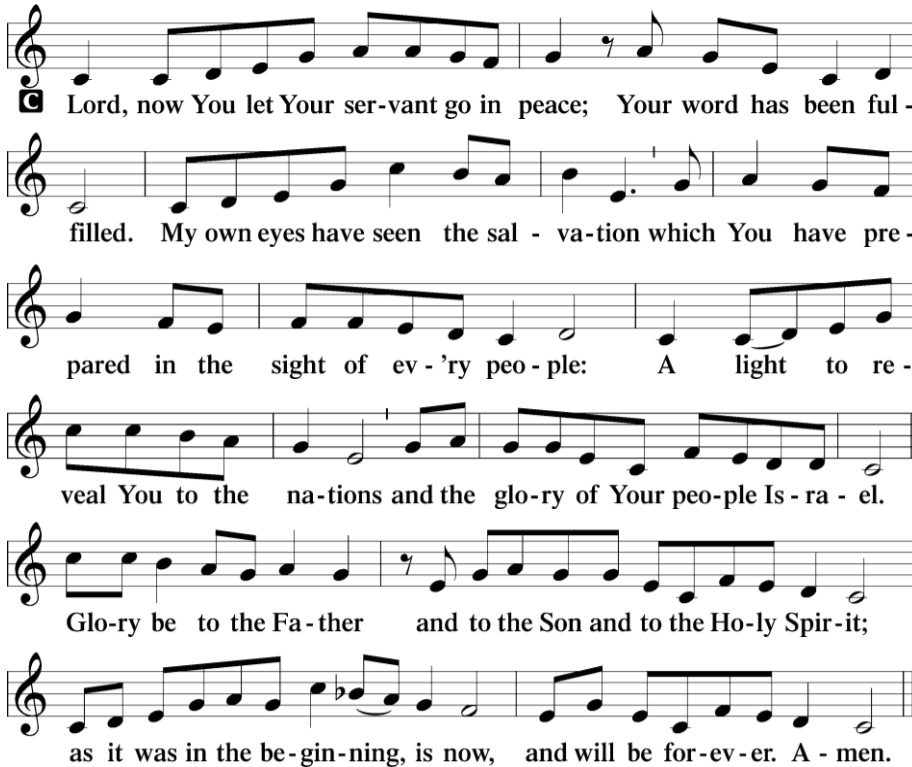
ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Nunc Dimittis – Luke 2:29-32



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.


BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.


C Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 388 – Go Tell It on the Mountain


Refrain



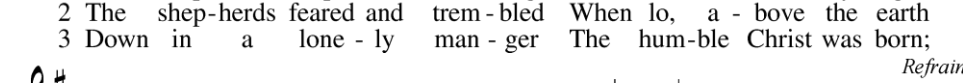
Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain

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SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *In Dulci Jubilo* (Dietrich Buxtehude)

Thank you to our musicians this morning.

Choir:

Robert Gilbert, Shirin Hassan, Trevor Jones, Carl Lenthe,
Vern Rogers, Gary Wohlfafka, and Louise Wohlfafka

Timpani:

Evan Huang



If you have any **urgent pastoral needs** at any time throughout this week
please contact **Pastor Beck** via the church office:

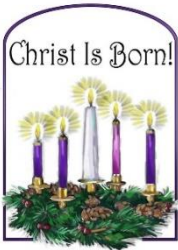
812-332-1668

[Pastor Beck](#) (ext. 3)

While the above number does NOT receive text messages, you may leave a voicemail in lieu of texting.

The office email (office@faithbtown.org) will be monitored on a *limited basis only* through New Year's Day.

Please use this for *non-essential* matters only.
Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2.



Sunday, December 31

1st Sunday after Christmas

+++ *All three services are Divine Service 1 with Holy Communion
AND New Year's prayers and praises.* +++

8am + 10:30am + 5pm Worship

9:15am Multi-age activity

Please note:

- **2023 offerings must be received by December 31.**
- **Gifts to our Endowment Fund will be doubled, if received by December 31, 2023.**
- Check your mailbox for your **2024 Offering envelopes**, if you haven't already picked them up. If yours are missing or mislabeled, contact the church office.
- An updated paper copy of the Church Directory is available in the narthex. Please contact the church office at office@faithbtown.org or 812-332-1668 with any updates to your listing.



Sunday, January 7

Epiphany (observed)

8 & 10:30am Commissioning of PPC/Congregational officers/Ministry Team members

11:30am Voters' Meeting to revisit the Playground Resolution