# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Missouri Synod

# The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2024
Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151
10:00\* am
\*livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube



### THE LIVING AND LIFE-GIVING WORD OF GOD DWELLS AMONG US IN THE FLESH

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples "of all the nations," so that "all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." For the Lord has "bared his holy arm" in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The Child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, "whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world" (Heb. 1:2). As "all things were made through him" (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold "the radiance of the glory of God" (Heb. 1:3), "glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

# PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS

The **Christmas Proclamation** was historically sung on December 24<sup>th</sup> 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, eleventh 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;

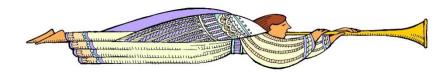
from the founding of the city of Rome, seven hundred and fifty-two years;

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** – O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is (arr. Kenneth T. Kosche)





Him,

Christ

the Lord!

#### **INVOCATION**

Text and tune: Public domain

**P** In the name of the Father and of the 

→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

dore

C Amen.

#### **OPENING SENTENCES - John 1:14**

us

a

- **P** And the Word became flesh
- **C** and dwelt among us,

come, let

- **P** and we have seen His glory,
- glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** – *John 1:9–13*

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.

- 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.
- 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 2:1-2, 4-6; antiphon: Psalm 2:7



Choir: I will tell of | the decree:\*

The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you."

Why do the | nations rage\* and the peoples | plot in vain?

Choir: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,\* against the Lord and against his a- | nointed.

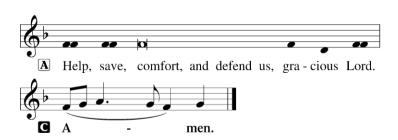
He who sits in the | heavens laughs;\* the Lord holds them in de- | rision.

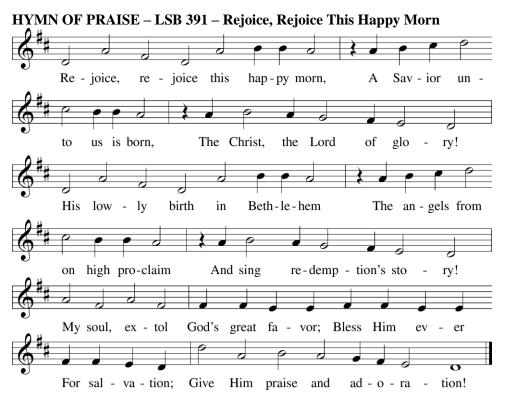
Choir: Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,\* and terrify them in his fury, | saying,

"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 be- | ginning,\* is now and will be forever. | Amen.

I will tell of | the decree:\*
The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you."







## **SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY**

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

<sup>7</sup>How 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."

<sup>8</sup>The 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.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,

you waste places of Jerusalem,

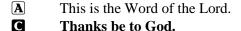
for the Lord has comforted his people;

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The 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.

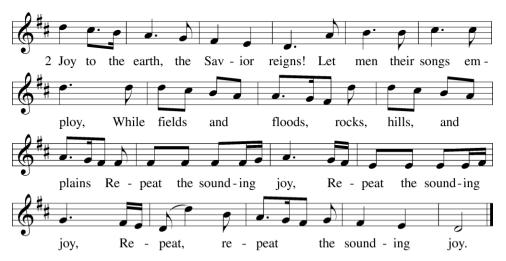




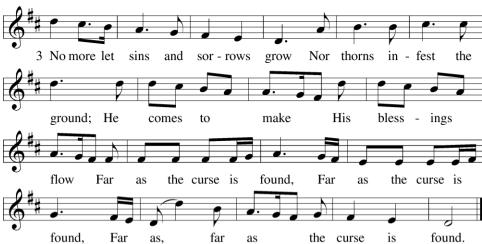
# **PSALM – Psalm 98** (with Isaac Watts' paraphrase)



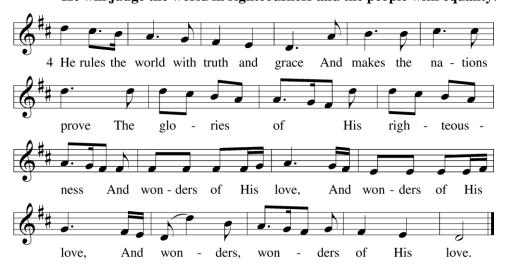
- A Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
- The Lord has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations. He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



- A Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;
- 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.



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



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

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but 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. <sup>3</sup>He 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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For 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"?

<sup>6</sup>And 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.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

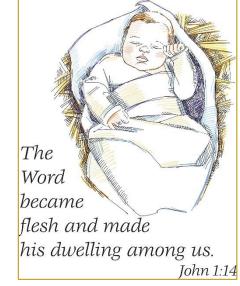
<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

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

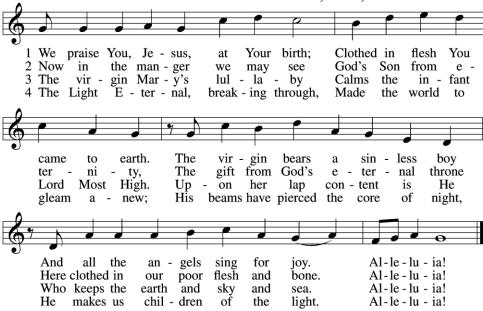
<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No 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.







5 The very Son of God sublime Entered into earthly time To lead us from this world of cares To heaven's courts as blessèd heirs. Alleluia!

6 In poverty He came to earth Showing mercy by His birth; He makes us rich in heav'nly ways As we, like angels, sing His praise. Alleluia!

7 All this for us our God has done Granting love through His own Son. Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice And sing His praise with endless voice. Alleluia!

Text (sts. 1, 3, 5–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 2, 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001557. Tune: Public domain

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - The Gift - John 1:1-18

### **NICENE CREED**

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 Lord, in Your mercy, C hear our prayer.
- $\mathbf{A}$ ...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





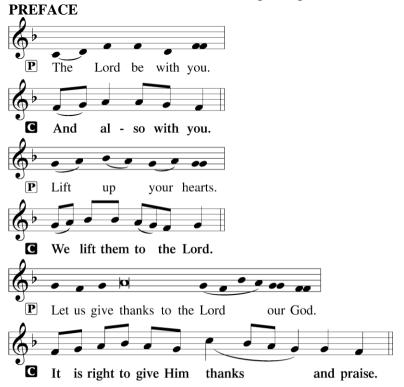


All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.

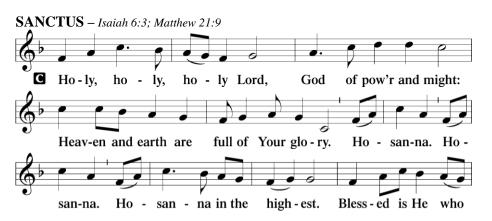


# +++SACRAMENT+++

beginning on LSB 160



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



Liturgy and Hymns reprinted from Lutheran Service Builder and used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001557.

Scripture – from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



#### 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,

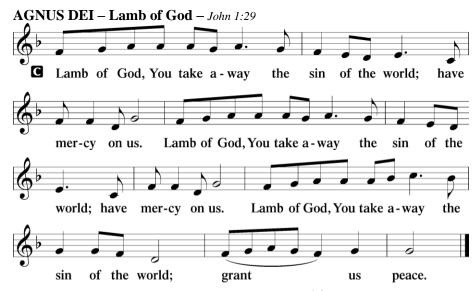
but deliver us from evil.

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.



#### DISTRIBUTION

**Anthem** – *In Dulci Jubilo* (arr. Ian Higginson)

*In dulci jubilo [in sweet rejoicing], Let us our homage shew;* Our heart's joy reclineth, In praesepio, [in the manger] And like a bright star shineth. Matris in gremio. [in the mother's lap] Alpha es et O, Alpha es et O! [You are the Alpha and the Omega!]

O Jesu parvule! [O tiny Jesus] I yearn for thee alway! Hear me, I beseech thee, O Puer optime! [O best of boys] My prayer let it reach thee, O Princeps gloriae! [O Prince of Glory] Trahe me post te, Trahe me post te! [Draw me after thee]

O Patris caritas, O Nati lenitas! [O love of the Father, O gentleness of the Son] Deeply were we stained, Per nostra crimina; [through our crimes] But thou hast for us gained, Coelorum gaudia. [the joys of heaven] O that we were there, O that we were there!

*Ubi sunt gaudia, [Where are the joys] If that they be not there?* There are angels singing, Nova cantica, [new songs] There the bells are ringing, In Regis curia: [in the courts of the King] O that we were there, O that we were there!



And

His

And

the

own Son

His grace

Son

is

All

From the throne Of

one

our race Fit

With



for

our blood for - ev

glo - ry

heav - en.

ren - ders.

His might in

- 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.
  - Great and Sman,

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





Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001557 Tune: © 1996 Kenneth T. Kosche. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.

110001557

- 5 Remember thou
  - What glory now

The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.

The angel host

Can never boast

Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6 The world may hold

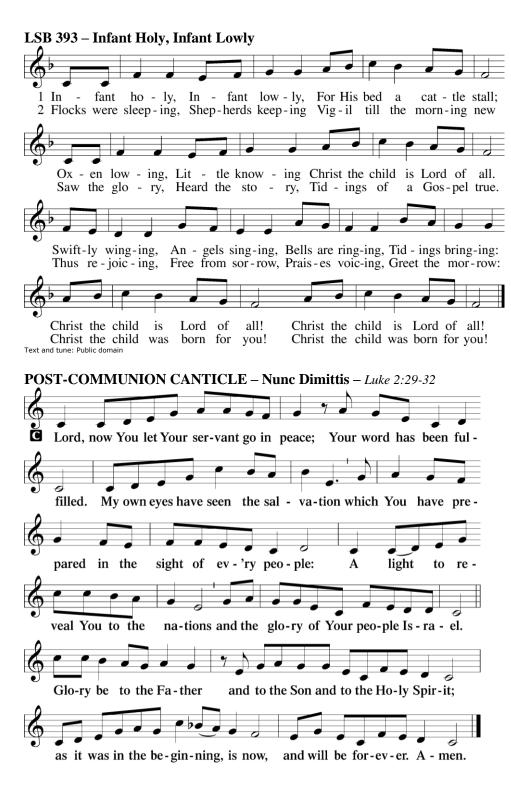
Her wealth and gold;

But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.

To Him hold fast

Until at last

A crown be thine and honor in full measure.



#### POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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

#### BENEDICTION

- 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.



#### SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Thank you to the Senior Choir for singing this morning: Ruth Engs, Lauren Gaskins, Robert Gilbert, Shirin Hassan, Kelly Johnson, Trevor Jones, Carl Lenthe, Meera Popkin-Tarack, Gary Wohlafka, and Louise Wohlafka



**The church office will be closed** through New Year's Day. If you have any **urgent pastoral needs** please contact **Pastor Beck** at 812-332-166 (ext. 3).

The office email (<u>office@faithbtown.org</u>) will be monitored on a *limited basis only* on those days. Please use this for *non-essential* matters only.

Regular office hours will resume on Thursday, January 2.

+++

Sunday, December 29

8:00am + 10:30am + 5pm **Worship** 9:15am **Multi-age activity** 

## Please note:

- 2024 offerings must be received by December 31.
- Gifts to our Endowment Fund will be doubled, if received by December 31, 2024.
- Check your mailbox for your 2025 Offering envelopes, if you haven't already picked them up. If yours are missing or mislabeled, contact the church office.





Sunday, January 5 Epiphany (observed)

444





Do you receive our weekly announcements?

Subscribe to FaithBtown News for weekly announcements and updates.