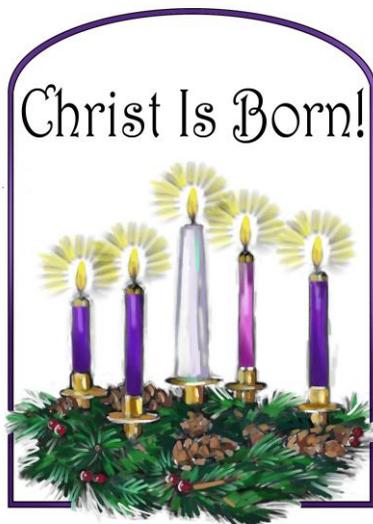


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



December 28, 2025

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

8:00 & 10:30*am, 5:00 pm

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

AS WE GATHER

The Lord Jesus Undergoes a New Exodus in Order to Save His People from Their Sins

Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must "take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt" (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He "had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son'" (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing "his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses" (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. "He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them" (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we "receive adoption as sons" in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:4-6)



Many thanks to *Evan Huang* for serving as our guest pianist today.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) † [Rev. Liwei Sui](#) † [Dr. Priscilla Gabriel](#), Director of Parish Music

2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN † 812-332-1668 † office@faithbtown.org † www.faithtown.org

✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 370 – What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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 – Exodus 13:14; Isaiah 9:6a; Hebrews 8:12; Psalm 111:4a

P By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

C For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

P For I will be merciful, . . . and I will remember their sins no more.

C **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION – *Genesis 3:19; Isaiah 43:25*

P God our Creator said to Adam and to us all to remember that “you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” But now He calls all to repentance of sin and faith in His Son, who is the remembrance of God’s mercy and who came to destroy sin and death and restore us to life. Before the newborn Redeemer of the world, let us repent and receive His forgiveness.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, remember not our sins of thought, word, and deed, the sins of our youth or of our old age. Because we often forget Your mercy toward us, we ask for Your forgiveness. Remember Your gracious will that whoever calls on Your name will be saved. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us always to remember Your mercy and Your steadfast love that we may live as Your own children, now and forever. Amen.**

P Thus says the Lord, “I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, announce the grace of God to all of you. 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 – *Jeremiah 31:15-17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1*

The congregation sings all.



**When Israel was a child, I | loved him,*
and out of Egypt I | called my son.**

**Thus says the Lord: “A voice is heard in | Ramah,*
lamentation and bitter | weeping.**

**Rachel is weeping for her | children;*
she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they | are no more.”**

**Thus says the Lord: “Keep your voice from | weeping,*
and your | eyes from tears,**

**for there is a reward for your work, de- | clares the Lord,*
and they shall come back from the land of the | enemy.**

**There is hope for your future, de- | clares the Lord,*
and your children shall come back to their own | country.”**

**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.
When Israel was a child, I | loved him,*
and out of Egypt I | called my son.

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.



G A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS – *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



G Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 63:7-14 – “You led Your people, to make for Yourself a glorious name.”

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord,
the praises of the Lord,
according to all that the Lord has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”
And he became their Savior.

⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰But they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.

¹¹Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?

Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,
¹²who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,
¹³who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.

¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest.

So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL – Isaiah 9:6 (paraphrased) - Sung by congregation.

3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -

Son is giv'n, And on His shoul-der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The

pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

SECOND LESSON – Galatians 4:4-7 – We are no longer slaves of sin, but beloved children of God.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA and COMMON VERSE – John 6:68

C 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.

HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 2:13-23 – “Out of Egypt, I have called my Son.”

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and

departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 389 – Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.

To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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SERMON – *Over Dreams and Nightmares* – Matthew 2:13-23

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 Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

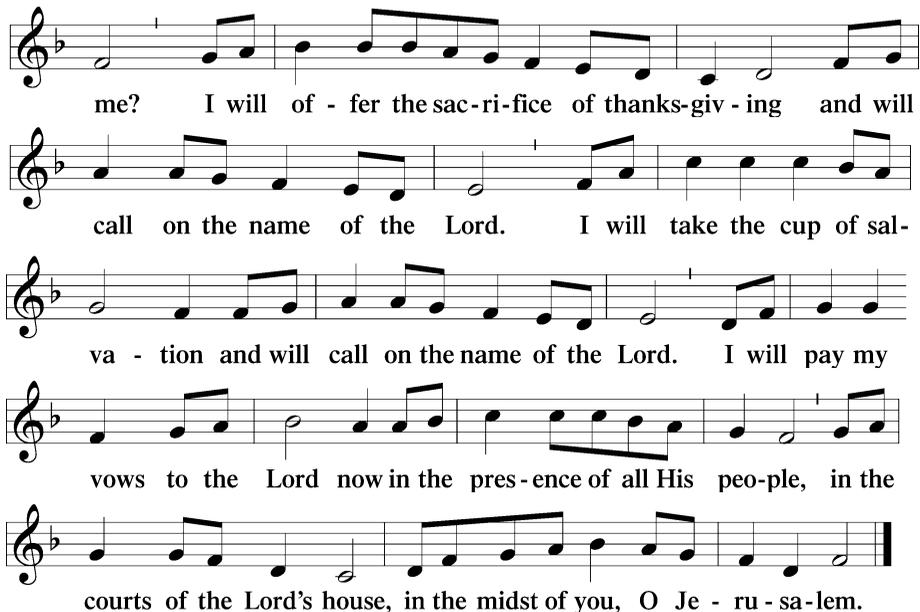
A ...through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. **C** Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY – *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



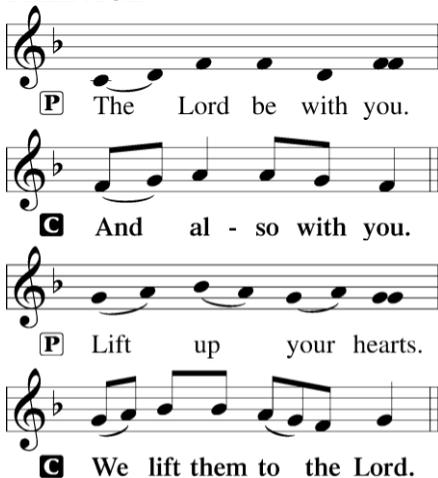
C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ ✠ ✠ SACRAMENT ✠ ✠ ✠
 beginning at 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.

**For Guests and
 Visitors Desiring the
 Sacrament**

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that in **this sacred meal Jesus Himself is *truly* present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord's command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

- **If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith,** we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing.
- **If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper,** please speak with one of our pastors.



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



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



sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

LSB 725 – Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose

Distribution Notes:

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

Non-alcoholic (white) grape juice, containing *a trace amount of wine*, is available in the center of the tray.



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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 Tune: Public domain

LSB 374 – Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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LSB 358 – From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

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."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
 Then with the shepherds let us go
 To see what God for us has done
 In sending us His own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
 And see what in the manger lies.
 Who is this child, so young and fair?
 It is the Christ Child lying there.

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.

9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,
 How weak You are, so poor and small,

That You should choose to lay Your head
 Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
 And set with gold and jewels rare,
 It would be far too poor and small
 A cradle for the Lord of all.

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
 You have but hay and straw so rough
 On which as King, so rich and great,
 To be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases You to see
 This simple truth revealed to me:
 That worldly honor, wealth, and might
 Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

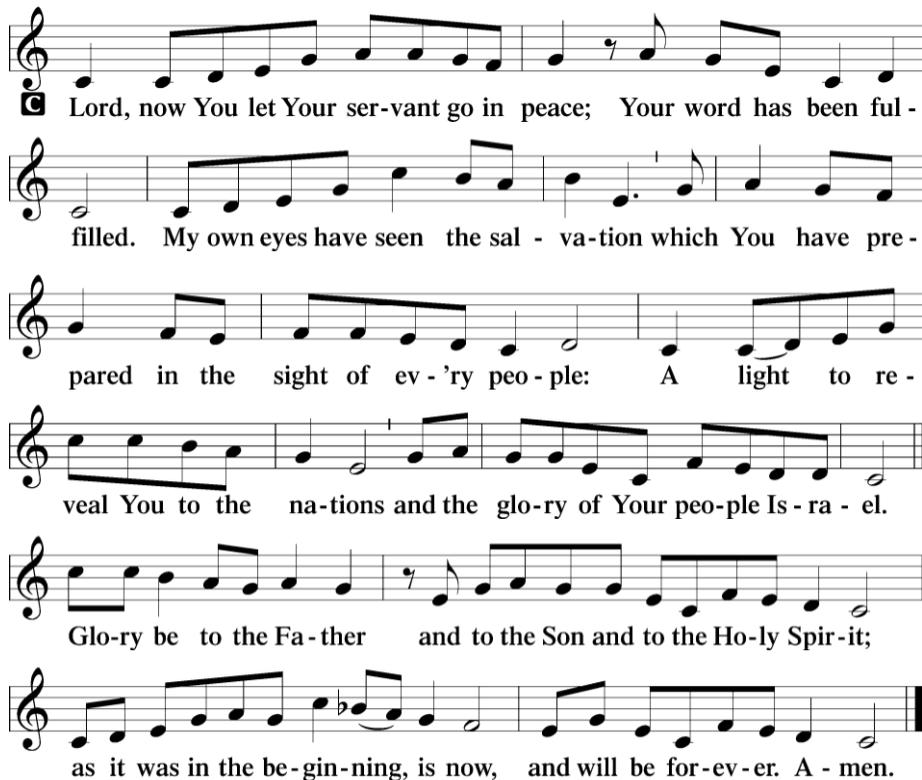
13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
 A quiet chamber set apart
 For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

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.

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



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 We give thanks to You, almighty God ... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION – Numbers 6:24-26

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 517 – By All Your Saints in Warfare – vv. 1, 9, 3



1 By all Your saints in warfare, For
 2 All praise for in - fant mar - tyrs, Whom
 △ 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And



all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
 Your mys - te - rious love Called ear - ly from their
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the



Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For
 war - fare To share Your home a - bove. O
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till



You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the
 Ra - chel, cease your weep - ing; They rest from earth - ly
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the



crown; And now they shine in glo - ry
 cares! Lord, grant us crowns as bril - liant
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry



Re - flect - ed from Your throne.
 And faith as sure as theirs.
 And praise to God a - lone.

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SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC



New Year's Eve: 5 pm Worship with holy communion

Sundays, January 4 & 11 Worship at 8:00 & 10:30 am only (5 pm will resume on January 18)