

# + THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD+

## *Christmas Day*

Friday, 25 December A+D 2020 · 9:15 A.M.

***Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Four, pg. 203***

## + Confession and Absolution +

### **HYMN OF INVOCATION** *"HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"* LSB 380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Refrain

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain
- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. Refrain

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*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*Kneel/Stand*

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## **+ Service of the Word +**

**INTROIT**

*Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

**P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**C** **and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**

**P** and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

**C** **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous

things!

- C** His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- P** The LORD has made known his salvation;
- C** he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- P** He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
- C** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
- C** break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

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

- P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
- C** and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
- P** and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
- C** Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

## **KYRIE**

*LSB 204*

- C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

*LSB 204*

- C** 1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

- 2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,

**Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
“Amen!” our glad reply.**

## **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.**

*Sit*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38*

<sup>17</sup>In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. <sup>18</sup>Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. <sup>19</sup>And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>20</sup>He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. <sup>21</sup>And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

<sup>34</sup>Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup>And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

<sup>36</sup>Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. <sup>37</sup>But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup>For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

*Psalm 118:26a, 27a, 23*

**P** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

**C** The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

**P** This is the LORD's doing;

**C** it is marvelous in our eyes.

## EPISTLE

*Titus 3:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**P** Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord. Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:1–18*

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

**C** 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.

## **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.**

*Sit*

### **382 WE PRAISE YOU, JESUS, AT YOUR BIRTH**

- 1 We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth;  
Clothed in flesh You came to earth.  
The virgin bears a sinless boy  
And all the angels sing for joy.  
Alleluia!
- 2 Now in the manger we may see  
God's Son from eternity,  
The gift from God's eternal throne  
Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.  
Alleluia!
- 3 The virgin Mary's lullaby  
Calms the infant Lord Most High.  
Upon her lap content is He  
Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.  
Alleluia!
- 4 The Light Eternal, breaking through,  
Made the world to gleam anew;  
His beams have pierced the core of night,

He makes us children of the light.  
Alleluia!

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

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## **SERMON**

*Stand*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*Sit*

## **OFFERING**

### **+ Service of the Sacrament +**

*Stand*

## **PREFACE**

*LSB 208*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also 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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **SANCTUS**

*LSB 208*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## **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.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PAX DOMINI**

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

**C** Amen.

## **AGNUS DEI**

*LSB 210*

**C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

### **624 THE INFANT PRIEST WAS HOLY BORN**

- 1 The infant Priest was holy born  
For us unholy and forlorn;  
From fleshly temple forth came He,  
Anointed from eternity.
- 2 This great High Priest in human flesh  
Was icon of God's righteousness.  
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;  
His hand removed impurity.
- 3 The holy Lamb undaunted came  
To God's own altar lit with flame;  
While weeping angels hid their eyes,  
This Priest became a sacrifice.
- 4 But death would not the victor be  
Of Him who hung upon the tree.  
He leads us to the Holy Place  
Within the veil, before God's face.
- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
As at the rail on bended knee  
Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
The bread of immortality.
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
A priestly food and priestly meat;  
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
His quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim  
Our voices join the endless hymn,  
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing  
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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### **367 ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY**

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the\_ eternal Three in One. Refrain

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*Stand*

## **NUNC DIMITTIS**

*LSB 211*

**☐ 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,**

**All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **BENEDICAMUS**

*LSB 212*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **BENEDICTION**

**P** 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 T give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## **388 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

ref Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. Refrain

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

3 Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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