

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Mankato, Minnesota

Children's Christmas Service  
December 17, 2023

Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LSB 367

*Verse 2: Women, Verse 3: Men, all other verses and refrain: Congregation*

- 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\_ternal Three in One. Refrain

*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 † 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.

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

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

**P** The Lord is come!

**C** Joy to the world!

**P** The Savior reigns.

**C** Joy to the world!

**P** Let earth receive her King!

**C** Joy to the world!

## Congregation Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379, *sts. 1, ref, 3*

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: Refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 Text: Public domain

## Reading

*Ella Holub: Luke 1:26–27, 30–32*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary.

<sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

## “My Soul Rejoices”

*Children: st. 1*

## Reading

*Little Lambs: Psalm 96:1–2*

<sup>1</sup>Oh sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth!  
<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**A** The Lord is come!

**C** Joy to the world!

## Reading

*Lucas Bjortomt: Luke 2:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## “Joy to the World”

*Children: sts. 1–2*

## Reading

*5&6 graders Psalm 96:3–6*

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!  
<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.  
<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

**A** The Lord is come!

**C** Joy to the world!

## Reading

*Dalton Ling: Luke 2:8–12*

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

## Reading

*Joel Brand: Luke 2:13–15*

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

## “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Adult Choir: sts. 1, ref*

### Reading

*1&2 graders: Psalm 96:7–8*

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

**A** The Lord is come!

**C** Joy to the world!

### Reading

*Madison Chapman: Luke 2:16–21*

<sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

<sup>21</sup>And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## “What Child Is This”

*Introductory Choir: sts. 1, 3*

### Reading

*3&4 graders: Psalm 96:9–10*

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth!

<sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!  
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.”

**A** The Lord is come!

**C** Joy to the world!

## Reading

*Linnea Hendley: Isaiah 9:6–7*

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## Congregation Hymn: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**LSB 384**, *sts. 1, 3*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Of the Father’s love begotten<br>Ere the worlds began to be,<br>He is Alpha and Omega,<br>He the source, the ending He,<br>Of the things that are, that have been,<br>And that future years shall see<br>Evermore and evermore. | 3 This is He whom seers in old time<br>Chanted of with one accord,<br>Whom the voices of the prophets<br>Promised in their faithful word.<br>Now He shines, the long-expected;<br>Let creation praise its Lord<br>Evermore and evermore. |
|---|--|

Text: Public domain

## Psalm 96:11-13

**C** <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it; <sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
<sup>13</sup>before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness,  
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

**A** The Lord is come!

**C** Joy to the world!

## Congregation Hymn: “Joy to the World”

LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature  
sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,  
and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and  
grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Public domain

- P** The Lord is come!
- C** Joy to the world!
- P** The Savior reigns.
- C** Joy to the world!
- P** He comes to make His blessings flow.
- C** Joy to the world!
- P** He rules the world with truth and grace.
- C** Joy to the world!
- P** Let earth receive her King!
- C** Joy to the world!

## Congregation Hymn: “Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349, *sts. 1–3*

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev’ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris’ners to release,  
In Satan’s bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

Text: Public domain

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

## Service of the Sacrament

### 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** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho- san - na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## 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 Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

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

### Pax Domini

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

# Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Distribution Hymns:

### Anthem: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Introductory Bells*

#### “Savior of the Nations, Come”

**LSB 332**

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Savior of the nations, come,<br>Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!<br>Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,<br>That the Lord chose such a birth. | 4 | Then stepped forth the Lord of all<br>From His pure and kingly hall;<br>God of God, yet fully man,<br>His heroic course began.          |
| 2 | Not by human flesh and blood,<br>By the Spirit of our God,<br>Was the Word of God made flesh—<br>Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.        | 5 | God the Father was His source,<br>Back to God He ran His course.<br>Into hell His road went down,<br>Back then to His throne and crown. |
| 3 | Here a maid was found with child,<br>Yet remained a virgin mild.<br>In her womb this truth was shown:<br>God was there upon His throne.    | 6 | For You are the Father’s Son<br>Who in flesh the vict’ry won.<br>By Your mighty pow’r make whole<br>All our ills of flesh and soul.     |

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973  
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### “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386

1 Now sing we, now rejoice,  
Now raise to heav’n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth  
Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth  
The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art!  
Thou my Savior art!

3 Now through His Son doth shine  
The Father’s grace divine.  
Death was reigning o’er us  
Through sin and vanity  
Till He opened for us  
A bright eternity.  
May we praise Him there!  
May we praise Him there!

2 Come from on high to me;  
I cannot rise to Thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit,  
O pure and holy Child;  
Through Thy grace and merit,  
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto Thee!  
Draw me unto Thee!

4 Oh, where shall joy be found?  
Where but on heav’nly ground?  
Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing  
In heav’nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there!  
Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74,  
alt. Text: Public domain

### “O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”

LSB 372

1 O Jesus Christ,  
Thy manger is  
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.  
For there, O Lord,  
Doth lie the Word  
Made flesh for us; herein Thy grace forth shineth.

2 He whom the sea  
And wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.  
Thou, God’s own Son,  
With us art one,  
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.

- 3 Thy light and grace  
 Our guilt efface,  
 Thy heav'nly riches all our loss retrieving.  
 Immanuel,  
 Thy birth doth quell  
 The pow'r of hell and Satan's bold deceiving.
- 4 Thou Christian heart,  
 Whoe'er thou art,  
 Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!  
 For God's own Child,  
 In mercy mild,  
 Joins thee to Him; how greatly God must love thee!
- 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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003002

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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*

**A** 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 ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

### Closing Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**LSB 368**

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French  
Text: Public domain

### **Acknowledgments**

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