

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION *(Sit)*

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come



sts. 1-4, 15; # 358

A Great and Mighty Wonder

383

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P 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 *(Spoken)* Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Christmas peace and joy through Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours; and the blessing of God Almighty—Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit—be and abide with you forever.

C *(Spoken)* Amen.

CLOSING HYMN — *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

380

10:30am
Divine Service

Christmas Day
25 December 2024



Please register your presence with us by filling out one of the Member/Guest cards found in the pew rack in front of you and giving it to the usher or placing into the offering plate.

AS WE GATHER

At Christmas, our lives and attention are often occupied not only with the smaller details of the season—the decorations, the gifts, the special menus, the schedule of events—but also with those details of greater importance: family, parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren, as well as those of more distant relationships. Greater than that, as Christians we center our celebration here in God’s presence to hear God’s Word, to attend to what is most important, which alone can give all the other details of life its most solid foundation. That Word puts everything else in its proper perspective, including our place and participation in the kingdom of God. The “big picture” includes God’s amazing creation from the beginning, as well as our part in mankind’s fall into sin and struggle with Satan and death. Then enters God’s great remedy: our salvation from sin and death through the redemption that is in God Himself, in the person of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord. His incarnation and birth from the virgin Mary was a great miracle—God taking on our human flesh and blood. Greater, however, was His own sacrifice in our flesh, by which He has cast down Satan and his lies and raised up a new creation to new, eternal life. On this day, amid any and all distractions and details, the familiar hymn has it right: “How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!” (LSB 728:1).

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

OPENING HYMN — *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn*

391

✠ GOD PREPARING US FOR HIS PRESENCE ✠

(Cleaning Us with His Word of Forgiveness)

INVOCATION

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

LIGHTING of the WREATH

Psalm 100

P On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

C Serve the LORD with gladness!

P Come into His presence with singing!

C Know that the LORD, He is God!

P It is He who made us, and we are His;

C we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C and His faithfulness to all generations.

The Christ candle is lit.

OPENING SENTENCES

LSB 383:2

P The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,
C and cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

P Proclaim the Savior's birth:

C "To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

ADMITTING OUR SINS and RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

P The infant Christ—the radiance of the glory of God—came to make purification for the sins of the world, to swallow up death forever, and to be the light of life for those who walked in darkness. In praise of God's mighty deliverance, we humble ourselves before Him in repentant prayer.

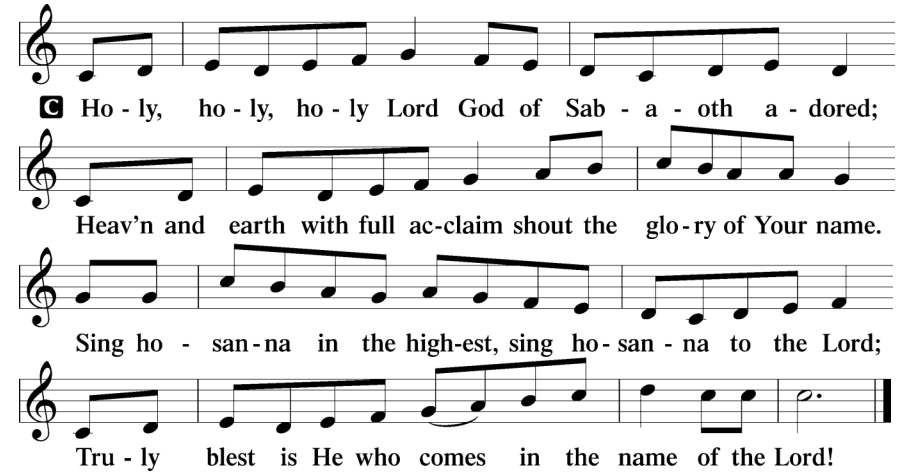
C Lord God, heavenly Father, we bow before You and confess that we indeed have walked in darkness; in the blindness of sin, we have neglected You, lost by our own fault. But we have seen the great light in the gift of Your only Son. Enlighten our hearts, our minds, and our lives by the forgiveness of our sins and the great promises of Your heavenly grace and mercy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P God has spoken His promises by the prophets, and now in these last days has spoken to us by His Son. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, announce the grace of God to all of you and speak His own absolution: I forgive you all your sins in the name of

angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS — Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; pg. 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!

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:

C *(Spoken)* Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

THE 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 *(Spoken)* Amen.

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

P Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.**

P Gracious Lord, You have bared Your holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, that the ends of the earth shall see Your salvation. Even amid Christmas peace and joy, we experience the hurt and harm of this world. We lift up all those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, Reach out to them with Your holy arm and the light of our Savior that they may be comforted in their time of need, seeing the salvation You have prepared for all through faith.

P All these things we bring before You, through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**

✠ GOD SERVING US HIS INCARNATE WORD ✠

(Feeding Our Faith with His Body and Blood)

PREFACE *(Spoken)*

P The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

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 Your whole creation. But we praise You especially for saving us from our sin by the redemption of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom You promised from of old, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, who perfectly fulfilled Your holy Law for us by His divine life, who then died our death for the forgiveness of the sin of the whole world, and who was raised again from the dead and now lives and reigns as King of the universe. Therefore with shepherds and Wise Men rejoicing and with

the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit..
C **Amen.**

✠ GOD SERVING US HIS WORD ✠

(Clothing Us with His Word of Truth: Law and Gospel)

ENTRANCE PSALM

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

⁶For 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.

¹Oh 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.

²**The LORD has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness
in the sight of the nations.**

³He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

⁴**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
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.**

⁶For 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.

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For seeing our desire for glory, yet forgiving it,
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For making us as we are in order to best serve Your kingdom,
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Your peace in our homes, our jobs, and our lives, let us pray to the Lord,
C Lord, have mercy.

P For those facing challenges everywhere, let us pray to the Lord,
C Lord, have mercy.

P For Your presence always and Your mercy with us every day, let us pray to the Lord,
C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS — *Glory to God in the Highest*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29; pg. 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray in song and in words spoken for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

HYMN — *O Little Town of Bethlehem*”

st. 4; # 361

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

P Father, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world as an infant, to be our Savior and to forgive our sins.

C Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

HYMN — *Away in a Manger*

st. 3; # 364

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.



P Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

C Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

HYMN — *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

st. 13; # 358

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C (Spoken) **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 — *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

379

SERMON

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH — *We All Believe in One True God*

953

OFFERING

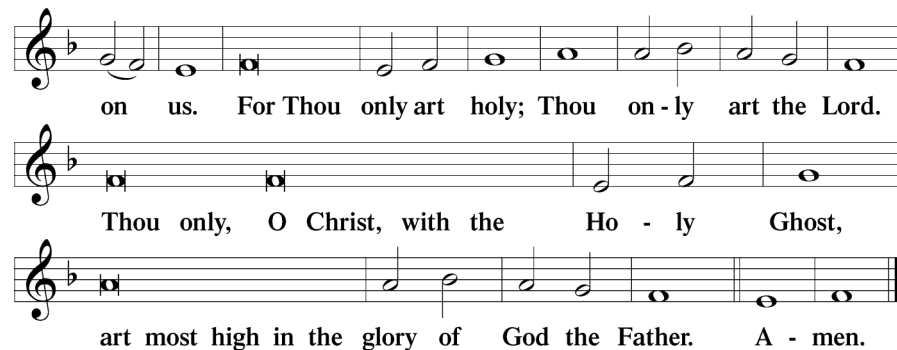


OFFERTORY (Stand)

Psalm 51:10-12; pg. 192



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



SHARING of the PEACE

P Peace be with you.

C **And also with you.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER of the DAY

P Let us pray...Merciful God, as we are gladdened to celebrate the annual festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, our Savior, help us to remember the purpose of His earthly ministry that we may take confidence in our deliverance from sin, Satan, and death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

(The Lord's coming salvation.)

Isaiah 52:7-10

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.

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

PSALM

Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 7

¹Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

²**The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against His anointed, saying,**

³“Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us.”

⁴**He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.**

⁵Then He will speak to them in His wrath,
and terrify them in His fury, saying,

⁶“**As for Me, I have set My King
on Zion, My holy hill.**”

⁷I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son;
today I have begotten You.

⁸**Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage,
and the ends of the earth Your possession.**

⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

¹⁰**Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

¹¹Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹²**Kiss the Son,
lest He be angry, and you perish in the way,
for His wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessèd are all who take refuge in Him.**

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

⁷I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son;
today I have begotten You.



EPISTLE

(The supremacy of God’s Son.)

Hebrews 1:1–6

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.”

⁷Of the angels He says,

“He makes His angels winds,
and His ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son He says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions.”

¹⁰And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of Your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but You remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

¹²like a robe You will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.

But You are the same,
and Your years will have no end.”

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

VERSE *(Stand)*

John 1:14

L Alleluia.

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