

# GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

December 21, 2025

**+ WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS +**

**+ PRELUDE +**

**+ OPENING HYMN +**

*376 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY*

sts. 1–2, 4–5

- 1 Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.

Text: Public domain

### **+ INVOCATION +**

*(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.

### **+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

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

**C** 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.

**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.

357 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

sts. 1, ref

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Text: Public domain

**+ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH +**

357 O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

sts. 6–7, ref

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2–5

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

When the Assyrian comes into our land  
and treads in our palaces,  
then we will raise against him seven shepherds  
and eight princes of men;

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

*EPISTLE*

Hebrews 10:5–10

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O  
God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken  
pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and

sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*HOLY GOSPEL*

Luke 1:39–45

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## *MESSAGE*

### *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.

## *OFFERING*

## *PRAYER OF THE CHURCH*

### **+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

## *PREFACE*

LSB 160

**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, holy Lord,



almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 161

**☐ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

LSB 161

**☐** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **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 ✝ 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 ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## *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.

*PAX DOMINI*

LSB 163

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

**C** Amen.

*AGNUS DEI*

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.

**+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +**

*374 GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD*

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth,  
Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth  
Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;

Praise His name in all the earth;  
Hail the King of glory!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

Text: Public domain

393 *INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY*

- 1 Infant holy, Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, Angels singing,  
Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, Heard the story,  
Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.; Polish

Text: Public domain

*THANK THE LORD*

LSB 164

**☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone  
what He has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear  
His name.**

**He recalls His promises and leads His people forth  
in joy**

**with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*POST-COMMUNION COLLECT*

**A** 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.

*BENEDICTION*

LSB 166

**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 +

### 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 blessèd Christmas morn. **Refrain**

Text (sts. 1–3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual  
Text: Public domain

## + POSTLUDE +

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