

Traditional Worship Service without the Lord's Supper

## ELDER-LED SERVICE

### PRESERVICE MUSIC / WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” LSB 380

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:***

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

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]***

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]***

## INVOCATION / CONFESSION / ABSOLUTION

Elder: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

E: 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.**

***Pause ... "We quietly confess our sins to God..."***

E: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am in my flesh, sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

E: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon your heartfelt and sincere confession as an Elder of Zion Lutheran Church I announce to you that all of our sins have been forgiven by God for Jesus' sake.

**C: Amen.**

## KYRIE

E: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

E: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

E: 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 mercy.

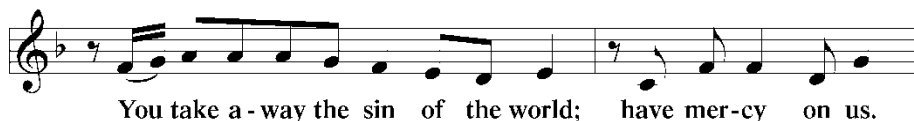
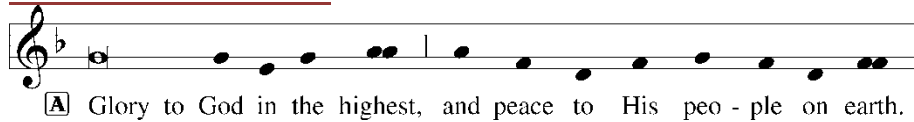
E: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C:** Lord, have mercy.

E: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C:** Amen.

### **HYMN OF PRAISE** “Gloria In Excelsis”



This can all be SPOKEN.



## **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 63:7-14**

**7:** <sup>7</sup> I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us-- yes, the many good things he has done for the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. <sup>8</sup> He said, "Surely they are my people, sons who will not be false to me"; and so he became their Savior. <sup>9</sup> In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. <sup>10</sup> Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. <sup>11</sup> Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people-- where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, <sup>12</sup> who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, <sup>13</sup> who led them through the depths? Like a horse in open country, they did not stumble; <sup>14</sup> like cattle that go down to the plain, they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD. This is how you guided your people to make for yourself a glorious name.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## **SECOND READING**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

**4:** <sup>4</sup> But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. <sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

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

### ALLELUIA VERSE



This can all be  
SPOKEN.

### HOLY GOSPEL READING

#### **Matthew 2:13-23**

E: The Holy Gospel according to St. **Matthew**, the **second** chapter.

**C:** **Glory to You, O Lord!**

**2:** <sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." <sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." <sup>16</sup> When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup> "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." <sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup> and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there.

Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, <sup>23</sup> and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

E: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN** "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" LSB 386

## **SERMON**

### **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 there 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.

## OFFERING

## PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*(After each petition the congregation responds:)*

**E** Lord in your mercy...

**C** Hear our prayer.

## 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.

## BENEDICTION

**E:** Now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain” LSB 388

