



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS 2019

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

OLNEY, MARYLAND

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Christmas is the Christ-Mass, the Christian Church's celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is a time when we reflect on the incomprehensible miracle that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14)—that is, the eternal Creator of the cosmos stooped down to join us in human history as the baby of a young peasant girl, born in a barn and announced to ranch-hands working the night shift. It is the celebration of the fact that God the Son became, humanly speaking, a nobody, so that human nobodies might become sons and daughters of God. This is, as the angel declares, "good news of great joy," but it is especially good news for those who have a hard time feeling joyful during the holidays (or at any time), because it means that God has come to join us in our earthly sorrows, that we might share in His eternal joy.

Though not quite as ancient as the observance of Easter (which may in fact date back to apostolic times), the Nativity of Our Lord is an old commemoration in the Christian Church. Perhaps as early as the late second century, the Eastern Church began celebrating the Lord's "manifestation" in the flesh as the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th. About a century or so later, various Western churches began commemorating the Nativity on December 25th. Eventually these feasts came to be celebrated side by side, with December 25th emphasizing Jesus' birth and January 6th focusing on the visit of the magi and other early manifestations of Christ's divine glory, such as his Baptism in the Jordan and the wedding at Cana.

Christmas was well loved by Martin Luther. For Luther, the fact that Almighty God should make himself available to the world in poverty and helplessness is the paradox at the heart of the Gospel. It should not be surprising, therefore, that Luther and his allies (unlike some of the other Reformation movements) retained the celebration of Christmas. While the legend that Luther invented the Christmas tree is highly doubtful, Luther did bequeath to the world a collection of powerful Christmas sermons and hymns, including "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," which we will be singing on Tuesday night.

After Luther's death, the Lutheran Church continued to celebrate Christmas with great gusto. The larger city churches often included brass bands, orchestras, multiple choirs, and children's pageants (as well as the occasional visit by St. Nicholas) in their Christmas services. Lutheran composers like Michael Praetorius, Heinrich Schutz, and J. S. Bach composed beautiful works for the season, including Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and Schutz's *Christmas Story*.

The Holidays are undoubtedly a hectic and harried time of the year. It is our hope that Good Shepherd's Christmas services and the meditations in this booklet will serve as an invitation out of the excess and soul-crushing commercialism of the season, into a restorative and reorienting reflection on the true joy of Christmas: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

A blessed Christmas to you and your family!

Children's Activity Bags

Located in the maroon case by the usher's table. Please pick one up for your child to use during the service. Please return the bag after the service to be used the next week.

Electronic Devices

Please turn off all electronic devices during our worship together, so that we can give glory to God without distraction.

Live Streaming

The 7pm and 10pm services will be filmed for streaming on the web. It may be watched at www.Sundaystreams.com/go/lcgs or on our website, www.olneygoodshepherd.org.

Sunday School

Age 3 through grade 6 – All Purpose Room
Grade 7/8 – Confirmation Classroom (back of 104a)
High School – Room 103 (OGSLY Room)
Adults – Room 104 (Choir Room)

Nursery

A casual and comfortable carpet is available during the service at the back of the sanctuary on the organ side. Or if you prefer, the ushers will be happy to direct you to our nursery room in Room 104A.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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Praise Service for Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

7:00 P.M.



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

Christmas Eve Praise: For the shepherds, at least, the first Christmas began and ended with praise. A multitude of angels appears to them, “praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest....’” And after they had witnessed the newborn Messiah with their own eyes, “the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen....” Of course, praise fills the pages of Scripture, and God’s people are regularly exhorted to praise the Lord. The Greek word St. Luke uses for “praise” is *aineo*, which fundamentally means “to tell a story.” The true praise of God is to tell (or, better yet, to sing) the story of what God has done—which reminds us that God commands praise not for His own sake, but for ours. God knows who He is. We are the ones who need to be reminded of who God is, who need to be reminded of the true story. And who is God? He is the infinite Creator who lowered himself to enter our human story, so that we might be raised up into His. That is a story worth telling. As you hear again this evening the story of our Savior’s birth, may your hearts be filled with His praise.

The cover image for Christmas Eve (reverse) is “The Adoration of the Shepherds” (1553), a woodcut by the German painter and engraver Heinrich Aldegrever. A member of the “Little Masters,” a group of engravers in the generation after the great Lutheran artist Albrecht Dürer (see the illustrations on pages 13 and 31), Aldegrever was a committed Lutheran and painted portraits of both Martin Luther and Philipp Melancthon. In this engraving, Aldegrever portrays the Virgin on her knees, worshipping the Christ Child, who is supported by a cohort of angels. Joseph is behind her on the left, and on her right, a group of muscular shepherds kneel before the Child. Above, a group of angels proclaim the glory of God.

Holy Communion is celebrated this evening. We believe that in the Lord’s Supper, Christ himself is truly present in his body and blood, under the form of bread and wine, given for Christians to eat and to drink. All who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith and who profess this faith as taught in the Evangelical Lutheran Church are invited to share in this sacrament.

This Evening’s Worship Servants

	Christmas Eve 7pm
Worship Assistant	Tim Leydig
Elder	Jim Taylor
Children’s Message	Pastor Tim Boerger
Communion Asst.	Sandy Langer Eric Wald Jake Wald
Ushers	Andy Carpenter Anthony Hoffman Mike Hillhouse
Readers	Angela Boerger Melody Wald
Greeters	Eric Wald Nancy Wald
Acolyte	Connor Wilson
Altar Guild	Dolores Falck (<i>set</i>) Nancy Wald (<i>clean</i>)



WELCOME

OPENING

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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!

INVOCATION *(stand)*

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- 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.**



*He made the stars and oceans
blue
But says that none compare
with you.
You are his treasure and great
prize!
He knows your name. He
made your eyes.*

*He is your shepherd, little
lamb.
The King of Heaven
The Great I Am.*

—Sally Lloyd-Jones

*O child, we kneel before you.
We have no gifts, neither the
gold of riches nor the frankin-
cense of holy aroma, nor the
myrrh of salve and embalm-
ment. We must ourselves be
the gifts we bring to you. Je-
sus, we offer our bodies as
living sacrifices; let them be
holy and acceptable to you.*

*Son of Mary and Son of God,
we worship you. There is no
one more worthy than you. In
you we see the mercies of God.*

—Walter Wangerin Jr.

Let my mouth speak the praise of the Lord: He is the Lord, through whom all things were made, and who was made amidst all things. He is the revealer of his Father and the creator of his mother; Son of God, from the Father without a mother; Son of Man, from his mother without a father.... The Word was God before all time; the Word became flesh at just the right time....

—Augustine of Hippo



O Word by which the whole Creation came to be, we come to you in rags and tags and unembarrassed, because you, too, have chosen not royalty nor wealth nor power but the lowly existence of shepherds. Swaddled and laid in a manger, you are like us. We yearn to be like you.

—Walter Wangerin Jr.

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

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain.*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest. *Refrain.*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain.*

OPENING SENTENCES

- A** For to us a child is born,
- C** **to us a son is given;**
- A** And His name shall be called
- C** **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,**
- A** Everlasting Father,
- C** **Prince of Peace.**
- A** “Glory to God in the highest,
- C** **and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**
- A** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

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

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING *(Sit)*

Isaiah 9:2-7 – NIV

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PRAISE

O Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-16 NIV

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,



This is the word of the prophet: 'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.' This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and God himself, as to believe that this Son of God is ours.... Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all mankind.

—Martin Luther



God loves human beings. God loves the world. Not an ideal human, but human beings as they are; not an ideal world, but the real world. What we find repulsive in their opposition to God, what we shrink back from with pain and hostility, namely, real human beings, the real world, this is for God the ground of unfathomable love.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory—because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross.

—J. I. Packer

I would certainly like to praise music with all my heart as the excellent gift of God which it is and to commend it to everyone. Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.

—Martin Luther



God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (stand) *Let Our Gladness Have No End* LSB 381

1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!

For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain

On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save

us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Text and tune: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20 – NIV

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

LET THE CHILDREN COME (*sit*)

Pastor Timothy Boerger

PRAISE

Away in a Manger

LSB 364

Away in a manger, No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

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.
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

SERMON

Pastor Timothy Boerger

APOSTLES' CREED (*stand*)

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.**



Here, in a feedbox, the Ancient of Days bends down so low as to be swaddled in silent, grieving flesh. This is the mystery of incarnation, that the creator of the cosmos would enter into the deepest suffering of humanity, to drink its full cup of pain, to absorb within the heart of Love itself the deepest heartache of this life.

—Travis Scholl

"He came down from heaven" can almost be transposed into "Heaven drew earth up into it," and locality, limitation, sleep, sweat, footsore weariness, frustration, pain, doubt, and death are, from before all worlds, known by God from within. The pure light walks the earth; the darkness, received into the heart of Deity, is there swallowed up. Where, except in uncreated light, can the darkness be drowned?

—C. S. Lewis

Christmas means that, through the grace of God and the incarnation, peace with God is available; and if you make peace with God, then you can go out and make peace with everybody else. And the more people who embrace the gospel and do that, the better off the world is. Christmas, therefore, means the increase of peace—both with God and between people—across the face of the world.

—Timothy Keller



Many people think that being Christian makes you sort of subhuman or, at least, less than fully human. Guys out there on the street (people think) are having a wonderful time enjoying human life to the fullest, and we in the church are sort of cramped and constricted. Well, things shouldn't be that way. Being a Christian is supposed to make you more truly human, more fully yourself. That means that you are supposed to become somebody who is reflecting the image of God.

—N.T. Wright

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

God's people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERING (sit)

OFFERING PRAYER (all)

- C** O Word made flesh, Gift from above, whose birth was greeted with the praise of shepherds and the treasure of magi, accept these poor gifts we bring to your cradle, and let the gift of your love live in us, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING SONG

Joy to the World

LSB 387

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.

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.

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.

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.

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
P And now, O God, we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world; you have become one with us that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

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.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

DISTRIBUTION *(continuous)*

DISTRIBUTION SONG *What Child is This*

LSB 370

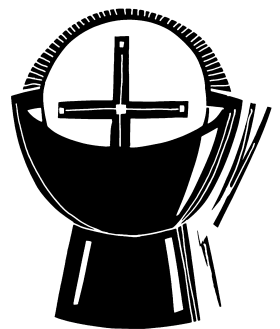
What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Right now I am like the unborn baby in the womb, knowing nothing except the comforting warmth of the amniotic fluid in which I swim, the comforting nourishment entering my body from a source I cannot see or understand. My whole being comes from an unseen, unknown nurturer. By that nurturer I am totally loved and protected, and that love is forever. It does not end when I am precipitated out of the safe waters of the womb into the unsafe world. It will not end when I breathe my last, mortal breath. That love manifested itself joyously in the creation of the universe, became particular for us in Jesus, and will show itself most gloriously in the Second Coming. We need not fear.

—Madeleine L'Engle



The incarnation is a kind of vast joke whereby the Creator of the ends of the earth comes among us in diapers... Until we too have taken the idea of the God-man seriously enough to be scandalized by it, we have not taken it as seriously as it demands to be taken.

—Frederick Buechner

O little Jesus, sleep. Sleep while we kneel and watch over you in a dim light this Christmas too. We honor the woman that bore you. We admire the man that adopted you. We maintain sweet memories of those who brought us, like Mary and Joseph, into the stable to worship you during our own Christmases past. But you are the one we praise. You are the one whom we trust. In you we rest. In you we place our faith. Forever and forever, you are the Christ—and you are our Lord forever.

—Walter Wangerin Jr.



What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps... means a little bit more!

—Theodore Geisel

COMMUNION DISMISSAL *(stand)*

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
- C** **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- C** **On this day, O God, you gave us Christ your Son to save us. As you have invited us here to see the Savior, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end, as we glorify and praise you for all that we have heard and seen; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*(Following the prayer, candles are lit. **Please remain standing.** Dip only the unlit candle when obtaining light from your neighbor.)*

CAROL OF THE NATIVITY

Silent Night

LSB 363

Silent night, Holy night, All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant so, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glory streams from heaven afar
Heavenly, hosts sings Hallelujah.
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

BENEDICTION

- P** Lord, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. Our own eyes have seen the salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light. *Refrain.*

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

(Please extinguish your candle.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

- P** Glory to God in the highest!
C **Peace to His people on earth!**
- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



Little Lamb, who made thee?

*Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life & bid thee feed,
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!*

*Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?*

*Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!*

*He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.*

*Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.*

—William Blake