

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2016



Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

Christmas Eve

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HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" LSB 366

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

1 Timothy 3:16; Luke 2:19

P: Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

C: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

P: But Mary treasured up all these things,

C: pondering them in her heart.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: On this most holy, night as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, let us enter His presence confessing our need for Him to save us from our sins.

We come humbly before You, O Lord, recognizing that we have not always responded to Your grace in faithfulness and obedience. Often we feel that we deserve more or better, forgetting and rejecting Your Word and Your works of salvation.

C: At times, we are lured by the world's deceptions, consumed by greed, passion, and desire. We fail to be thoroughly grounded in Your Word. Forgive us, dear Lord, for rejoicing in the temporary treasures on earth instead of the eternal treasures of heaven.

P: Lord God, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

C: Forgive our impatience and our neglect. By Your Spirit, lead us to greater faith, obedience, service, and repentance until Your call to eternal glory comes.

P: Children of God, on that first Christmas Eve salvation entered into the world in the person of God's only-begotten Son. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh and by His authority, I

forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 24:1, 3–5; antiphon: Psalm 2:7

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

C: The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

P: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

P: He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

C: 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.

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

SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

RESPONSE “Away in a Manger” LSB 364

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his

shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ 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. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For

unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” *LSB 363*

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

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

P: Let us pray for the whole Church throughout the world and for all people of the world.

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

PREFACE

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.

PROPER PREFACE

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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things that are not seen. 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 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!
Oh, that we were there!

Thou my Sav - ior art!
Oh, that we were there!

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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. 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:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "What Child is This"..... LSB 370

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"..... LSB 361

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;

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.

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” **LSB 368**

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