

# Christmas Day

December 25, 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 Day

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**HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"..... LSB 379

## **INVOCATION**

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

**C: Amen.**

## **CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

*P: Recalling our sin and God's mercy, let us examine our lives and consciences.*

*(Silence for self-examination.)*

*P: Holy and gracious God,*

**C: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before You, O Lord, for all my sins. I have lived as if You did not matter and I mattered most. Your name I have not honored and my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I am sorry for all my sins and plead for Your mercy in Christ Jesus. Graciously forgive me all my sins and help me amend my sinful life. Amen.**

*P: God be merciful and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

## **PSALM**

*Psalm 2:1-12*

*P: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?*

**C: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed, saying, "Let us burst Their bonds apart and cast away Their cords from us."**

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

**C: Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, "As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill."**

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

**C: Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**

*P: Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.*

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

**SALUTATION and COLLECT**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*P: Let us pray. Blessed Lord, long ago You spoke through the voices of men to proclaim Your promise. Now You have spoken through Your Son, the Word made flesh. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe the living voice that bestows upon us the fullness of Your promises, once for all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives in unity with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.*

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN** "Joy to the World" ..... *LSB 387*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

<sup>7</sup> How 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." <sup>8</sup> The 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. <sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The 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.

*P: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE READING**

*Hebrews 1:1-6*

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but 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. <sup>3</sup> He 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, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup> For 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"? <sup>6</sup> And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "Let all God's angels worship Him."

*P: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 1:1-14*

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.*

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

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And 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.

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

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

**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 people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.*

*P: Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C: hear our prayer.**

*P: For these and all things needful for this body and life, let us pray with confidence in the name of the Word made flesh, our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and honor with the Father and the Spirit, now and to the end of the ages.*

**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.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*P: It is truly our joy and delight, our purpose and our duty, to rejoice in the wonder of this day, in the mystery of the Word made flesh, and in the promise of glory that sin and death cannot overcome.*

*Heavenly Father, 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.*

**C: Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

*P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

### **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.**

**PAX DOMINI**

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

**C: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" ..... **LSB 393**



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing;  
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** "Once in Royal David's City" ..... **LSB 376**

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

*P: Let us pray. What we have received in our ears and upon our lips,  
O Lord, keep within us in faithful hearts, that the joy of Christ's birth  
may sustain us through the journey of this mortal life and His gifts  
equip us through forgiveness for the everlasting life that is to come;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**C: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

*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 from the Realms of Glory” .....LSB 367Δ

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