DECEMBER 24, 2023 - NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE 4 PM

Prelude - "The First Noel" English Carol; arranged by Paxton.

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- P Amid the shadows of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

Kneel

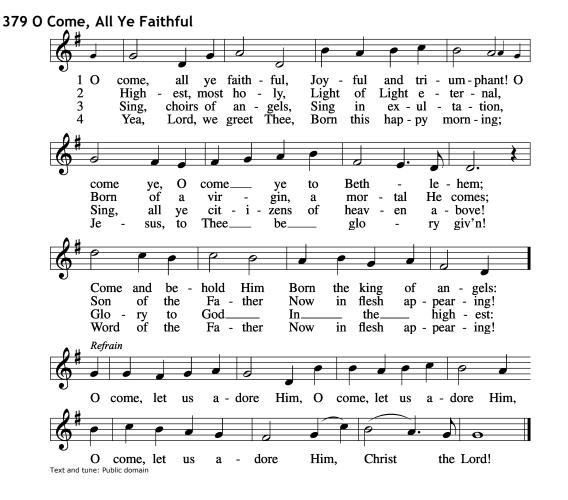
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P God of grace and truth,

C in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, nor trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

- P The angel said, You shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins. With great joy, 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.

Stand



sts. 1, ref, 2-4

Greeting

- **P** Good news of great joy, light and life, grace and peace be with you all.
- **C** And also with you.

Christmas Dialog

- A O God, the ruler of ages eternal, You are without beginning or end:
- **C** Yet You choose to be born an infant in time. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A O God, the invisible, You are the One whom no one has seen or can see:
- **C** Yet You assume the face of the Son of Mary. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A O God, the all-powerful, You hold the mountains in the palm of Your hand:
- **G** Yet You let Yourself be wrapped in swaddling clothes. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A O God, the eternal glory, innumerable angels acclaim You endlessly:
- **C** Yet You choose to be rocked to sleep by the songs of the daughter of David. Praise to You, O Lord.
- **A** O God, the infinite, heaven and earth cannot contain You:
- **C** Yet You rest in the arms of Mary. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A O God, the perfect joy, You are the source of the happiness of heaven and earth:
- C Yet You cry as a little child. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A O God, the eternal Word, You are the light of all created intelligence:
- **G** Yet You are laid in a manger and cannot even speak. Praise to You, O Lord. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

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. ³You have multiplied the nation; vou have increased its joy: they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For 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. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born.

Isaiah 9:2–7

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. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem - The Parish Choir sings "Sing Gloria" by Katherine Davis; Frank Vasi, Saxophone soloist.

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

sts. 1, ref, 3

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

the new-born King; Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord, 2 Christ, by 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness! Peace on earth and mer - cy sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" mild, God and be-hold Him come, Off - spring of Late in time a vir-gin's womb. Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings. Joy - ful, ye all na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty! Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die, With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is in Beth - le - hem!" born Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je sus, our Im - man - u - el!Born earth, Born to raise the sons of to give them sec-ond birth. Refrain The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry the new-born King!" Hark! to Text and tune: Public domain

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Sermon

Nicene Creed

C 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.

Kneel

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.

Each petition ends:

P Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer!

The Prayers conclude:

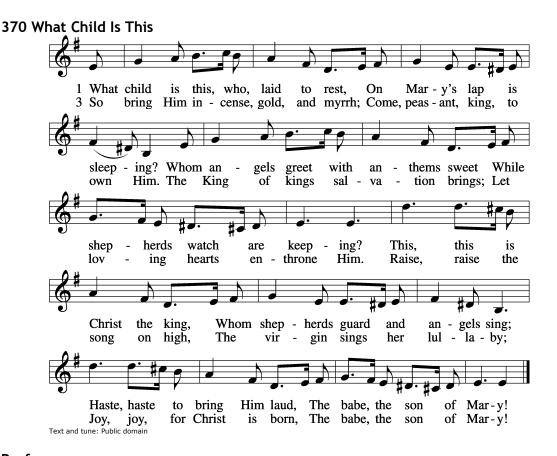
Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all those for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

Anthem - The Parish Choir sings "Cradle Carol" by Victor Johnson.

Stand

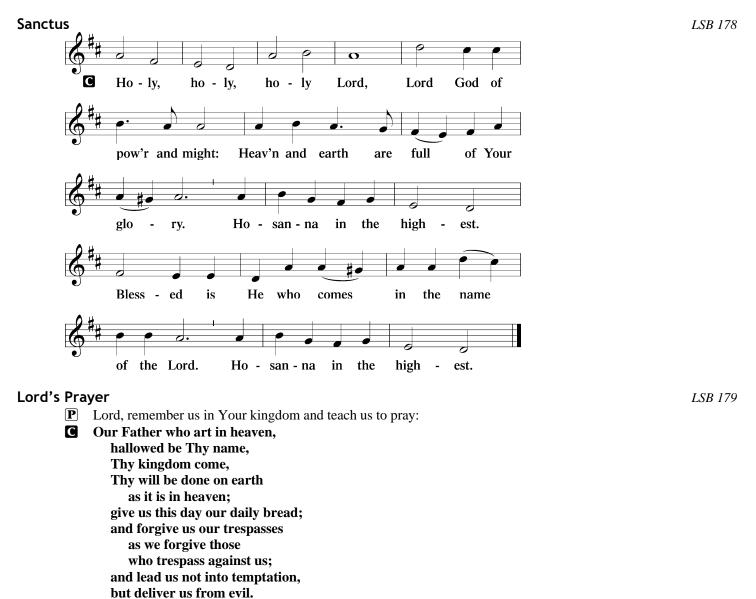




It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love



those things which 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:



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."

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

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

For Thine is the kingdom

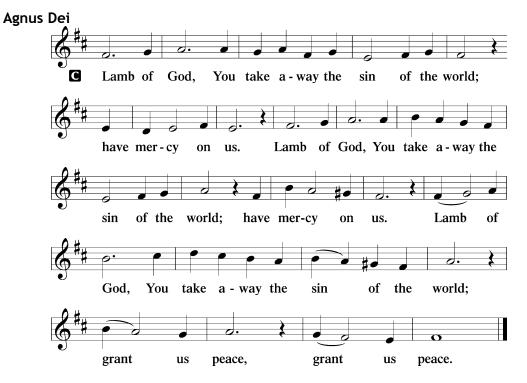
remembrance of Me."

and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord





Sit

Distribution

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem 1 0 Beth - le - hem, see thee lie! lit - tle town of How still we 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won-drous gift is giv'n! 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray; A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by; an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love. While mor-tals sleep, the hu - man hearts The en - ter in, Be So God im-parts to bless-ings of His heav'n. out our sin, and Cast born in us to - day. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light. geth - er Pro -com - ing; But O morn-ing stars, to -Pro - claim the ho - ly birth, in this world of No ear may hear His sin, We hear the Christ-mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night. prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth! And Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in. 0 come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el! Text and tune: Public domain

364 Away in a Manger in man - ger, crib for a bed, 1 A - way а no 2 The cat _ tle are low - ing, the ba by а wakes, _ 3 Be me, Lord Je - sus; near Ι Thee ask to stay The lit tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head. -But _ tle Lord lit Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. Close by for -me ev er and love me, Ι pray. The down where He stars in the sky_ looked lay, Thee, Lord Je - sus! Ι Look down from the love sky, Bless all the dear chil - dren Thy ten der care, in The lit tle Lord Je - sus sleep on the hay. а And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh. And take Text and tune: Public domain live us to heav - en Thee there. to with 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child laid her child Low - ly 1 Gen - tle Mar - y in man - ger; а 2 An - gels sang a bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him; 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly man - ger; in a There He lay, the Un - de-filed, То strang - er. the world a Heav-en's star shone bright-ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him. is still the Un - de-filed He But no more а strang - er. babe in Can He be the Sav - ior? Such а such а place, won-drous sight, Heard the an - gels Shep-herds saw the sing - ing; God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry; Son of 0 the saved of all the race Who have found His fa Ask vor. the hills were ring All the plains were lit that night, All ing. Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo ry!

Text and tune: Public domain

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

■ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

C Amen.

Stand

363 Silent Night, Holy Night



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 183

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.



Dismissal

P Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve our Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude - "Angels Sing!" by N. Schram.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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