

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Day

Hope Lutheran Church, DeWitt



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with

God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. .

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

St. John the First Chapter

The message of the angels brings the shepherds (representatives and signs of "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord" of all ages and nations who will follow them) to the Light (Is. 62:12). This Shepherd's Liturgy invites us to pass through the gates of our church into the joy occasioned by the Lord's proclamation of the birth of His Son. With voice and musical instrument we sing a new song to the Lord. We shout for joy to Him. We burst into jubilant song so God's righteousness may be revealed to the people of the earth (Ps. 98:1-4).

He saves us, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of His mercy. Through Baptism by water and the Spirit (who overshadows us in grace as Mary was once overshadowed) we are empowered to worship the Child and become heirs having the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:5-7).



Our Communion Practice

On the basis of God's Holy Word, Hope Lutheran Church continues to practice the ancient, Biblical and confessional practice of close(d) communion as an opportunity to give joyful witness to our unity in the Christian faith. Guests who are joining us this morning and hold membership in one our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us in the reception of this great gift. Please take time to introduce yourself to Pastor Sikora prior to the Divine Service.

Because the nature of the Lord's Supper involves unity of doctrine and because Christendom is currently divided by denomination over doctrine and practice, we are unable to commune those who hold membership in other denominations. For a further explanation of fellowship in the Lord's Supper please take a few moments to read the tract, "What About: Fellowship in the Lord's Supper" which has been placed in the pew rack. You are invited take one with you for further study. May God bless your reception of His Word this morning.

*Christmas Morning Service is taken from Lutheran Service Book
Divine Service Setting Four page 203 and prepared using the Lutheran Service Builder*

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

We Celebrate Our Lord's Birth
Monday, December 25, 2023 A.D.
Divine Service Setting Four pg. 204

Prelude Music: Ringers of Hope, "Bells are Ringing, Angels Singing"

Organ Prelude: Of the Father's Love Begotten
Improvisation on Adeste Fideles

Wilbur Held
Michael Kutch

Bell Toll

Please stand and face the processional crucifix

Processional Hymn- O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

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

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

C Amen.

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



*All my heart again rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices.
Christ is born! Their choirs are singing Till the air, everywhere Not with joy ringing*

Paul Gherhart
from LSB #360 st. 1

✠ *Service of the Word* ✠

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise Gloria in Excelsis



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be Seated

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 52:7–10*

Response after the reading:

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Introit for Christmas Morning

by, Stephen Johnson

Choir: 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.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.
The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.



C He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Choir: 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.

Epistle *Hebrews 1:1–6*

Response after the reading:

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

Stand

✠ *The Procession of the Gospel* ✠

The Holy Gospel processes into the midst of the people symbolizing our Lord's incarnation to dwell among us.

Introduction

Choir sings the “Alleluia” first.

Repeated by the congregation and thereafter.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the choir and the second is for the congregation. Both staves begin with a repeat sign and a fermata over the first note. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Choir or Cantor

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, from the Father, full of grace and truth

ALL SING ALLELUIA

Holy Gospel *John 1:1–14*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John the First chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After reading

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

**☩ 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

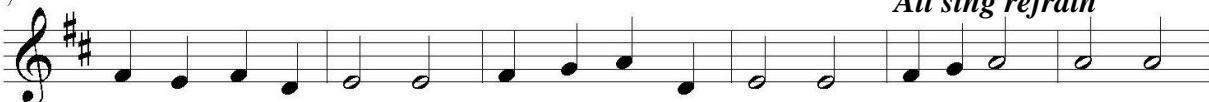
Be Seated

Hymn of the Day- "On This Day the Earth Shall Ring" from the Hymnal Supplement 98 #809
 Arranged by David Cherwein



Choir 1. On this day earth shall ring with the song child ren sing to the Lord Christ our King,
 Men 2. His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth Beth le hem saw his birth;
 Women 3. God's bright star o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led; knell they low by his bed,
 All 4. On this day an gels sing: with their song earth shall ring, prais ing Christ, heav - en's King,

All sing refrain



born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us Id e o o o
 ox and ass be - side him, from the cold would hide him.
 lay their gifts be - fore him, praise Him and a dore Him
 born on earth to save us; peace and love He gave us.



Id e o o o Id e o Glo - ri a in ex cel sis De o! *Interlude*

*This strong tune frames this Christmas text's staccatolike phrases.
 "Ideo (EE-day-OH) gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God
 in the highest!"*

Text and Tune: Public Domain

SERMON



Sermon Response Hymn

See Amid the Winter's Snow

LSB 373



All 1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
Men 2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
Women 3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
All 4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

All Sing the Refrain



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Organ Voluntary: What Is This Lovely Fragrance - Paul Manz

✠ *Service of the Sacrament* ✠

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.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and 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.

C Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

The Words of Our Lord- *Spoken by Pastor*

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

Visitors are kindly asked to read the communion statement on the front cover.

Hymn: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Choir- Joy in Judea!

by, David Davenport/Ruth E. Schram

There was joy in Judea in that little town when Jesus Christ was born.

There was joy in Judea in that little town, it was on that Christmas morn.

There was hope in Judea when the star shone down on a manger filled with hay.

There was hope in Judea when the start shone down upon on the place where Jesus lay.

There was peace and the promise of goodwill towards men when the shepherds heard the angels sing. And the song of salvation spread through Bethlehem; sweet Mary birthed a King.

There was love in Judea when the shepherds found the mother and her child.

There was love in Judea when the shepherds found this little Babe so undefiled.

There was peace and the promise of goodwill towards men when the shepherds heard the angels sing. And the song of salvation spread through Bethlehem; sweet Mary birthed a King

There was joy in Judea in that little town when Jesus Christ was born.

There was joy in Judea in that little town, it was on that Christmas morn

Hymn –The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

LSB 624



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
 As at the rail on bended knee
 Our hungry mouths from Him receive
 The bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
 A priestly food and priestly meat;
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
 His quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim
 Our voices join the endless hymn,
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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Soloist 1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near
 All 2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,
 All 3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave
 All 4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing
 Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,
 His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en
 Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
 And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
 His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.
 And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

All 5 Softly from His lowly manger
 Jesus calls
 One and all,
 "You are safe from danger.
 Children, from the sins that
 grieve you
 You are freed;
 All you need
 I will surely give you."

All 6 Come, then, banish all your
 sadness!
 One and all,
 Great and small,
 Come with songs of gladness.
 We shall live with Him forever
 There on high
 In that joy
 Which will vanish never.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.



Post Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Benedicimus

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

Recessional Hymn- Hark the Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



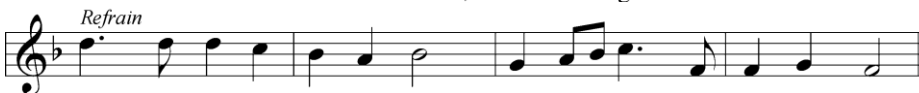
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye 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 born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

Postlude: Ringers of Hope, Ukrainian Bell Carol (Carol of the Bells)

Announcements

Those who serve:

Pastor	Reverend Dr. Tony Sikora
Music Director	Nicole Leppala
Organist	Michael Kutch
Crucifer	Nicholas Sikora
Gospel	Aidan Pei

Ringers of Hope and Hopes Mixed Choir

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