# December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 The Nativity of Our Lord



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI ~ SYNOD
308 Byrne Street
Smithville, TX 78957
512-237-2108
Divine Service 10 AM

**Pastor Timothy Appel** 



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

In our readings today: The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples "of all the nations," so that "all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." The Lord has "bared his holy arm" in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, "whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world" (Heb. 1:2). As "all things were made through him" (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold "the radiance of the glory of God" (Heb. 1:3), "glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

**Hearing**, Ask an usher for one of the wireless hearing assistance units.

Holy Communion is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus' own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matthew 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26). For this reason, and because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-34), we ask that those who have not yet been instructed and those who are not members of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

<u>Attendance Registration</u> cards are located in the Hymnal racks of each pew. We ask all members and our guests to complete one and pass it to the center aisles. An usher will collect them after the offering is taken to the altar. The cards are important as they enable our secretary to track members' attendance as well as guests interested in joining our church. Thank you for your help.

#### A Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen

PRELUDE
CALL TO WORSHIP BELL
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
WELCOME



Stand

**Invocation** (God has given us our beginning in Baptism, so the Divine Service begins in His Name.)

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.

**Confession:** (We cannot come into the presence of our holy God on our own. We recognize our sinfulness and plead for mercy on account of Christ.)

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**Absolution:** (God speaks His words of forgiveness to us through His servant, the pastor.)

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

## Service of the Word

**Introit:** (Forgiven by God, He invites us into his presence as we speak words from the Psalms.)

Ps. 98:1-4; antiphon: Is. 9:6

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.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation:

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

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;

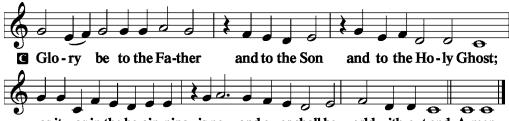
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

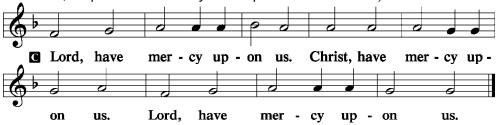
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

#### Gloria Patri



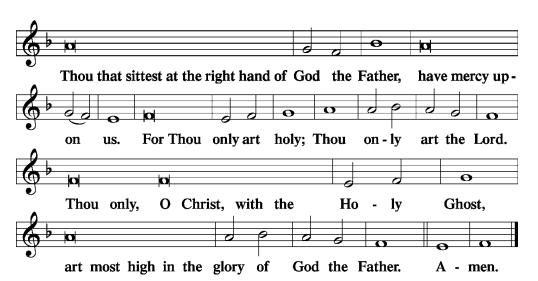
**Kyrie:** (Shortened form of the Greek "Kyrie eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy." In the presence of Jesus, we plead for His mercy and help in our time of need.)

LSB 186



**Hymn of Praise:** (Trusting God's promise of mercy, we join the church in heaven and on earth in a song of praise to our Creator, Savior, and Comforter.)





**Salutation**: (The pastor and congregation greet each other in the Lord's presence.)



**Collect:** (Many of these prayers have been used in the church for over 1,500 years. They "collect" the Gospel theme for the day.)



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.



Sit

Scripture Readings: (Jesus speaks to us in His Word as our crucified and risen Savior.)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

P Today's Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-second chapter

<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."

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.

Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

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.

**Gradual:** (The Gradual is a portion of a psalm or other Scripture passage that responds to the Old Testament reading and transitions us toward the words of Jesus in the Gospel.)

Ís. 9:6; Ps. 98:1a

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.** 

Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things!

**Epistle** 

Hebrews 1:1-6

P Today's Epistle reading is from Hebrews, the first chapter.

<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"?

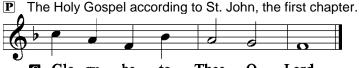
<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Alleluia LSB 190



Holy Gospel John 1:1-18



Glo-ry be to Thee, 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. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.





**Creed:** (God works faith in us by His Word that we hear in Scripture. We confess that faith using one of three creeds that the church has used throughout the years and across the world.)

**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,

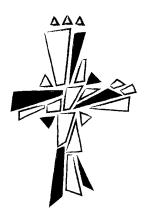
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

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 

→ of the world to come. Amen.

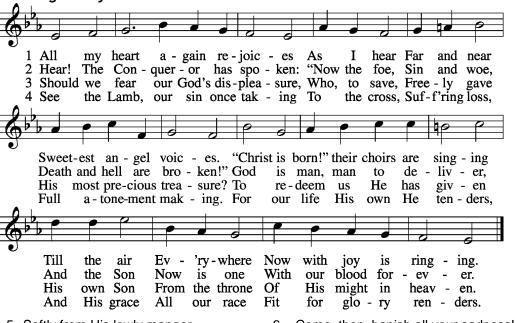
Sit



**Hymn of the Day:** (This hymn especially relates to the Gospel theme for the day. Each hymn provides a way for us to hear God's Word set to music.)

All My Heart Again Rejoices

LSB 360



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."

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.

## Sermon "Rejoicing Even in the Ruin"

Isaiah 52:9

(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)

#### Votum

- The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- Amen.

Stand

Offertory: (The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.) LSB 192



Sharing of the Peace: (At peace with God through Jesus, we greet each other in that peace.)

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Sit

**Offering:** (The congregation responds to God's forgiveness by bringing Him the first fruits of what He has given.)

Stand

**Prayer of the Church:** (The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)

- **P** let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.

Close of the Prayers

- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

**Preface:** (The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.)

LSB 194

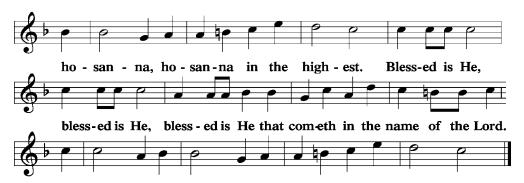


It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person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

**Sanctus:** (Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9).)



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer:** (We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us.)

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 Our Lord:** (We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.)

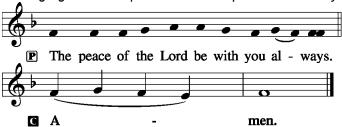
LSB 197

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."

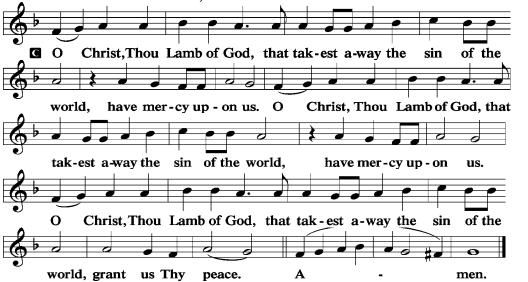
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini:** (Latin for "The peace of the Lord." The pastor holds the body and blood of Jesus before the congregation and speaks the Lord's peace as the very Gospel.)

LSB 197



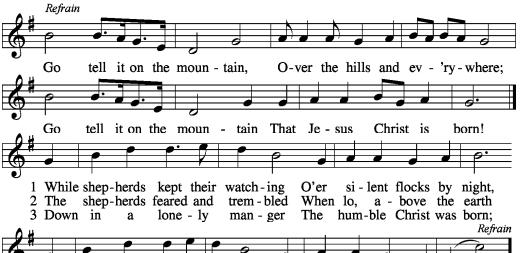
Agnus Dei: (Latin for "Lamb of God." As John the Baptist cried (John 1:29), so we sing to Christ, our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.) LSB 198



Sit

## Distribution Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388



There shone a

us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

ho - lv

That hailed our Say - ior's birth.

13

an-gel cho-rus

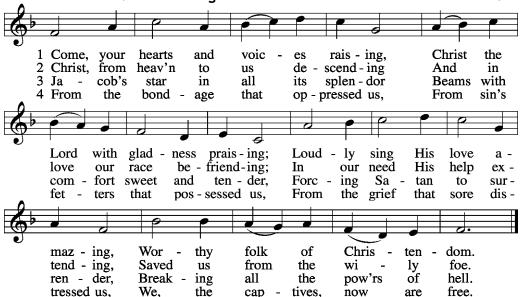
Be - hold, through - out the heav-ens

the

sent

Rang out

And God



- Oh, the joy beyond expressing
  When by faith we grasp this blessing,
  And to You we come confessing
  That Your love has set us free.
- 6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us, Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.

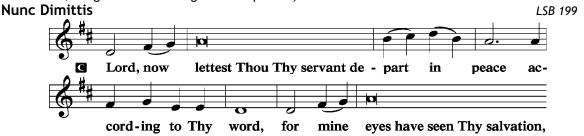
#### Stand

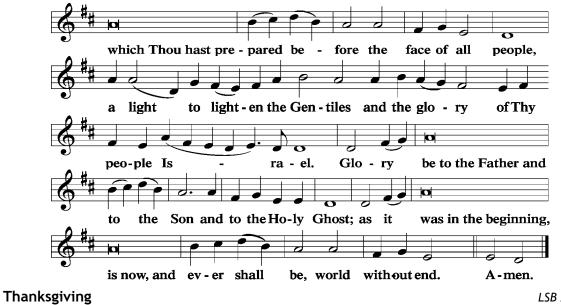
In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

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

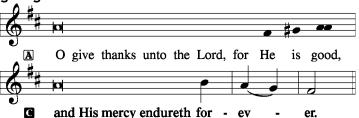
   in peace.
- C Amen.

**Post-Communion Canticle:** (Having received Christ in our mouths and into our lives in the Sacrament, we give thanks and go forth in peace.)





LSB 200



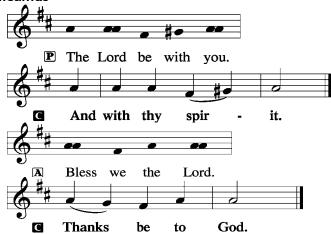
Post-Communion Collect: (We thank God for all He has done in the Sacrament and ask that it would show forth in our lives.)

## P 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.

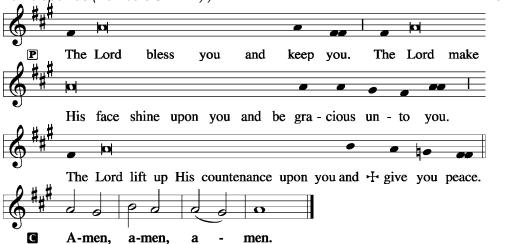


#### **Benedicamus**

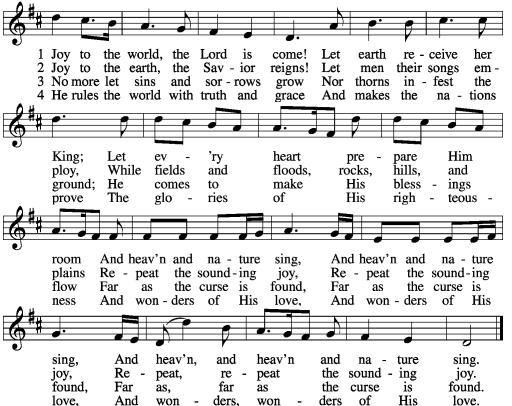


**Benediction:** (Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).)

LSB 202



Joy to the World



## Silent Prayer After Worship

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS DISMISSAL POSTLUDE