

# Christmas Day Service

## December 25, 2022

### Preservice Music, Call to Worship and Welcome

#### The Opening Hymn: LSB 380 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47  
Text and tune: Public domain

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- 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,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**

- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*(Kneel or sit to reflect silently on your sin.)*

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** 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.
- 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.

### A Hymn: LSB 369 "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:  
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned

I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;  
 Sweet new-born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:  
 His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
 Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929

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Tune: © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553

## +Service of the Word+

### The Introit

*Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**C: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

**C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

P: The LORD has made known his salvation; 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.**

P: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**C: 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 beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**C: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

# The Salutation and Prayer 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.

## A Hymn: LSB 359, "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten-der With sweet-ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man  
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -  
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness  
sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright  
cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layritz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948  
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Old Testament Lesson: 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.

**A Hymn: LSB 370 “What Child Is This”**



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to  
 sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let  
 shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the  
 Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;  
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98  
 Tune: English, 16th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## The Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 1:1–12

<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.” <sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” <sup>10</sup>And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, <sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**A Duet:** “Light of the World”

## The Christmas Gospel: John 1:1–18

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first 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. <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.

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

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

# The Hymn of the Day: LSB 384 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V Text and tune: Public domain

## The Sermon

## The Offering



## A Hymn: LSB 377 “On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing”



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the  
 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er  
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To  
 made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since  
 in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then  
 sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an-gels bring, News of great joy, news of great  
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us  
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may  
 made the an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
 sing, All for to see the new - born King.  
 men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men.”

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Prayer of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

### A Hymn: LSB 373 “See Amid the Winter's Snow”



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,  
 2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,  
 3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,  
 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.

*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!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
Tune: John Goss, 1800–80  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Announcements and Christmas Blessing for Online Worshippers

### +Service of the Sacrament+

#### The 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, 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. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

#### The Words of Institution

# The Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

# The Distribution

## A Distribution Hymn: LSB 365 “Away in a Manger”

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children’s Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.  
Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921  
Text and tune: Public domain

## A Distribution Hymn: LSB 366 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled,  
3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,

From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
And still their heav’n-ly mu - sic floats O’er all the wea - ry world.  
Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:  
When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”  
 A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-’ring wing,  
 Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,  
 His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an - cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.  
 And ev - er o’er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.  
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.  
 Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## A Post-Communion Collect

### The Benedicamus

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### The 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.

### The Closing Hymn: LSB 387 “Joy to the World”



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - ’ry heart pre - pare Him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## The Postlude

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book

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## Events of the Week: Dec 25, 2022 to Jan 1, 2023

**Office closed** December 26-December 31  
**Sunday** 9:30 a.m. New Year's Day service

## FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: December 18/19, 2022

General Fund	3869.00
Tessaro Ministry	<u>10.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3879.00</b>

## Announcements

**Now is the Time to Sign Up for Pastor's Discovery Class!** Discovery is a 12-week course that is designed for anyone who is interested in becoming a member of St. James. If you are already a member but would like to brush up on your understanding of Lutheran doctrine and the Small Catechism, this class is also for you! At this point, Pastor is trying to see who might like to attend Discovery so that he can set a day and time that works for those interested. Pastor's plan is to start the Discovery Class in January 2023.

## **Have you selected your Bible reading program for 2023?**

You are encouraged to read the whole Bible in 2023, but if you want to build into that challenge, you may want to read the New Testament instead. Check out the article in the December newsletter for a variety of Bible reading programs. There are also a couple Bible readings programs on the table in the coat. Those of you who have the You Version app on your phone will want to search for Bible programs. Starting January 1, Pastor Schaeffer is going to use the You Version Bible reading program called, *"The One Year Bible."* Daily readings, in this Bible reading program, are from the Old Testament, the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs. The assigned readings take about 15 minutes a day.

## **The Word Works – Building an Ethic of Bible Reading**

This conference for lay people and church workers will be February 4, 2023 at Our Savior, Lansing, MI. The Registration fee is \$25.00 and \$15.00 for students. The conference will also be livestreamed. For more information, visit the event page: [www.michigandistrict.org/theological23](http://www.michigandistrict.org/theological23).

### **Those who serve Today:**

**Officiant:** Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

**Organist:** Beth McKay

**Deacons:** Jerry Talen and John Weiss

**Ushers:** Jim and Nancy Spears

**Video/Sound/Recording:** Nathan Urbanski, John, and Marjie Weiss

**December Altar Guild:** Marjie Weiss and Melissa Ensing

## A Statement on Holy Communion

**We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper** as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to refrain from attending the Lord's Supper.

Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine, but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life;

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.

**NOTE:** We provide gluten-free communion host and non-alcohol grape juice. Just let Pastor and/or the assistants know when you come for Holy Communion.