

**Christmas Day**

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

# Christmas Day

## As We Gather

*This Advent, we prepared for our Christmas celebration by considering various ways our seasonal decorations amplify the real meaning of Christmas. Though many of the reasons behind holiday decorations go unappreciated and even unnoticed, they still point us to Christ. Some of the decorations do this in a more obvious way. Even the most secular of souls sees baby Jesus in the crèche. But even seemingly nonreligious signs of the season like evergreens and lights originated in Christendom. Now, as we have come to the Twelve Days of Christmas, we consider another Christian tradition: the exchange of Christmas presents. The giving of gifts, beautifully wrapped, reflects the gracious love of our heavenly Father, the "Father of lights," from whom "every good gift and every perfect gift" comes. Certainly, the greatest gift of all is none other than what we have come to celebrate: God's self-offering to us through His Son for the forgiveness of our sin. It is a gift that produces abundant blessings for us and in us. These blessings know no end. They regenerate and renew us as we walk into the bright eternity God has in store for us. The gift is all wrapped up in the babe, who lies in a manger. Come, let us adore Him!*

## 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367



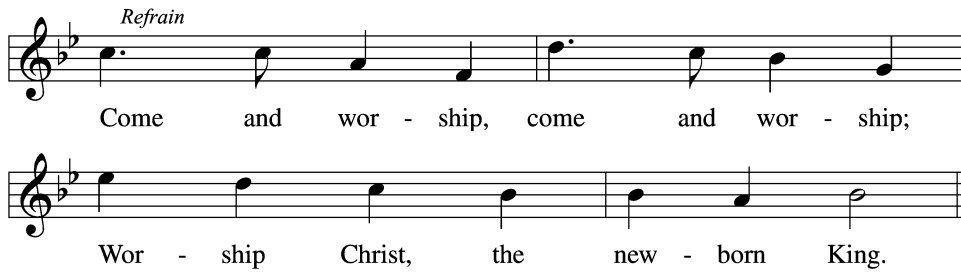
1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



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## Invocation

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

C: Amen.

## Call to Worship

*Isaiah 60:1; 9:2; 2 Corinthians 4:6*

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

C: and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

P: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"

C: has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## Confession and Absolution

*2 Peter 3:9; Acts 17:30; Galatians 4:3-4; John 1:11-12; 3:17, 18*

P: The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

C: The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent.

P: In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

C: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.

P: He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

C: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

P: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,

C: but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

P: Beloved in Christ, let us confess our sin unto God our Father, that, placing our trust in His name, our hearts may be well-prepared to greet our newborn King.

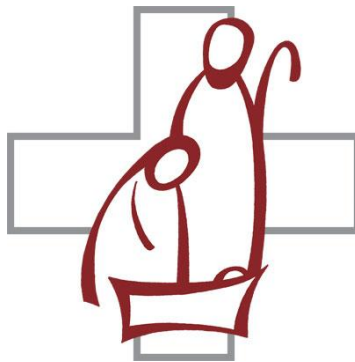
*[Silence for reflection of God's Word and for self-examination]*

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that there is no one good, not even one, among us. All mankind has turned aside. We have willfully offended You, our Lord and Maker, in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have done what is evil and failed to do what is good, and thus deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But we are truly sorry for our sins and come to You for mercy. Gathered around the manger, we behold the Son You sent to save us all, and we turn to You for forgiveness. Grant us the gift Your Son came to bring: the forgiveness of our sins, that we may be renewed in faith and walk in the way that leads to everlasting life.

P: With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



# Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Everlasting Father, You brought us peace even as we rebelled against You. Thank You for being faithful to Your promise to give us a Messiah to save us from our sins and give us an eternal inheritance of reconciliation with You. Grant that, as Your children, we may hold fast to Your merciful love, that we may cling to our inheritance and enjoy the blessings of life in Your holy family; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Brother, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## 374 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!

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## 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.

## Epistle Reading

*Titus 3:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## Gospel Lesson

*Luke 2:1–20*

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

for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

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

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

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Reading Response

P: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.



# 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
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;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of 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.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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## Homily

### *Wrapped Presents*

We decorate for Christmas. Our decorations include wrapped presents—gifts in colorful boxes and bags that are placed under the Christmas tree. But these gifts all pale in comparison to the gift that started it all at Christmas—the gift of God’s Son, whose birth brings us regeneration, renewal, and eternal life. On Christmas [Eve], we consider how the gifts under the tree point us to God’s indescribable gift in Jesus Christ.



## Our Offerings

*Thank you for your continued support of the ministry Mt. Olive Lutheran Church.  
If you are a guest (or if your contact info has changed), please fill out a Connect Card  
found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.*

## Prayer

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

## 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.

## Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*(To the tune of Joy to the World)*

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*Joy to the world, the Lord is born,  
The Lord of hosts is He!  
He comes to bring, great joy this morn,  
For all the world to see,  
For all the world to see,  
For all, for all the world to see.*

## Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed... ...in remembrance of Me."

## The Lord's Prayer

## Agnus Dei

*(To the tune of Joy to the World)*

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*Joy to the world, the Lamb of God,  
Is born for us today!  
He comes to spread His joy abroad,  
The light, the peace, the way,  
The light, the peace, the way,  
The light, the light, the peace, the way.*

## Distribution

*As a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), Holy Communion is celebrated at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in the glad confidence that our Lord, as His Word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Our Lord invites to His table those who believe He is truly present in this meal, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive as He forgives us.*

*Because the Bible teaches that this Sacrament may also be abused, and that participation in the Lord's Supper is an act of confession of faith, the LCMS ordinarily communes only those who have been instructed in the teachings of our church and who have confessed their faith in these teachings.*

*All are invited to the Lord's table. Those who share our confession of faith and who wish to commune are asked to extend their hands outward to receive the Sacrament. Others who have come forward will receive a blessing from the pastor. If you have any questions about this Communion statement, you are encouraged to speak with Pastor Koschmann. Thank you for respecting and honoring our Communion practice.*

*For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.*

## Communion Hymns

370 What Child Is This

LSB 370

392 God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392

## Post-communion Canticle

*(To the tune of From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)*

*Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore'er endure!  
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,  
And we have tasted of his word.*

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray.

Lord our God, for the sake of the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

## Acknowledgments

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# 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.

Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

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

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*Celebrate the Savior's birth!*

