

Sunday & Monday December 28th & 29th, 2025



**CHRIST + THE
SAVIOR IS BORN**

SON OF GOD



ST. PAUL

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

SON OF GOD

Christmas holidays mean family time, often with extended family travel and visits. Meals are prepared, gifts are given, memories are made. But the memories might not all be good. Sometimes there are Christmas hurts or even tragedies. We live in a world still affected by sin. The sinfulness of the world cannot rob us of the peace God intends to bring through his Son. Christ the Savior is born, and through his life, God brings us into the family. He gives us the rights of redeemed sons and daughters, the privileges of inheritance.

Service Setting 3, CW p. 188

Hymn

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

CW 332

Stand

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

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ 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.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

CW 346 sts. 1, 3

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

The kindness of the Lord is seen in sending a Savior to redeem those who turn away from him.

⁷I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.
⁸He said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me”;
and so he became their Savior.
⁹In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hallel Anthem

Joyfully Sing Noel

*Joyfully sing Noel, Noel, rejoice on this Christmas morn. Joyfully sing Noel, Noel, for
Jesus the Babe is born. Noel, Noel, joyfully sing Noel. Noel, Noel, joyfully sing Noel.*

*Angels came down to earth one night and joyfully sing Noel. Kings from the east
brought treasured gifts and joyfully sang Noel. Noel, Noel, joyfully sing Noel.
Noel, Noel, joyfully sing Noel.*

*Now let us worship Christ the Lord and joyfully sing Noel. Tell the good news that Christ
is born and joyfully sing Noel. Noel, Noel, joyfully sing Noel. Noel, Noel joyfully sing Noel.
Joyfully sing Noel. Joyfully, merrily, happily, lovingly, come let us sing, sing Noel!*

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Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

Redeemed by God’s true Son, we can call God our “Father.”

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

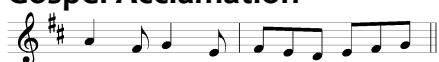
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

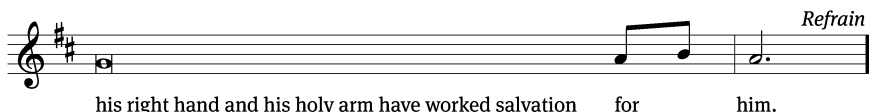
Psalm 98:1



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel & Sermon Text

Matthew 2:13–23

God saves his Son from an early death. God's plan was to save the world by having his Son die on the cross when the time had fully come.

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

Let All Together Praise Our God

CW 355

Sermon

Pastor Matt Holtz

Stand

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering & WELS Connection

Hymn He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded

CW 351

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

CW 356

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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WORSHIP NOTES

Preacher: Matt Holtz

Presiding Minister: Matt Holtz

Accompanist: Becky Ryan

Featuring the Hallel Group

Service Teams:

8:00 a.m. Team Paulson; AV: Z. Vogel

10:30 a.m. Team Abitz; AV: T. Falck

6:00 p.m. Team Hoh