



## The Weary World Rejoices!

Jesus came to conquer the darkness of sin and lead us into the light of His kingdom.  
Jesus came to die and rise again to give all who believe the certainty of eternal life.  
Jesus came to bring us new life while still here on earth  
and to give us His Spirit to enable us to grow in faith,  
as we await joining Him in His heavenly kingdom.

**JOY of joys ~ Jesus came!  
Glory to the newborn King!**

### ✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

#### LIGHTING OF THE WREATH CANDLES

*Candles remind us Jesus Christ came to conquer sin's darkness and to lead us into the light of His glorious Kingdom.*

*The colors also have significance: blue is for hope; pink is for JOY; white is for CHRISTmas morning: the purity of God as He comes as the Christ Child.*

*May God's Spirit warm our hearts and homes as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! JOY to the world!*

#### RINGING OF THE BELL ~ CALL TO WORSHIP

##### PRELUDE

*Gail Black*

##### INVOCATION

*Divine Service, Setting 1 ~ LSB p. 151; Matthew 28:19b*

Pastor (P): In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

##### SALUTATION AND PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

L: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

L: We 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!

##### ENTRANCE HYMN # 379 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

##### GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

*Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. Thank you!*



##### OFFERING *For giving options, see: ShepherdHillsChurch.org*

*Stewardship Thought: This CHRISTmas season, the JOY aspect of our 2023-24 theme is: Giving JOY-fully! May God the Father's JOY-full gift of His Son Jesus, who gave His life for us and His Holy Spirit to us, prompt our response of lives lived in JOY-full service to God and to others!*

##### CHORAL VOLUNTARY *A Virgin Most Pure* Shepherd's Chorale

*traditional English Christmas carol*

*A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell, has brought forth a baby, as it has befell.  
To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin, which Adam's transgression has wrapped us in....  
Then God sent an angel from heaven on high, to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie,  
And bade them no longer in sorrow to stay, because that our Savior was born on this day....  
Then presently after the shepherds did spy a number of angels that stood in the sky.  
They JOYfully talked and sweetly did sing, to God be all glory, our heavenly King.  
And therefore be merry, set sorrows aside, Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide!*

##### PRAYER

##### OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 52:7-10

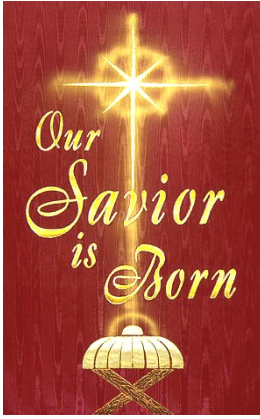
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of Your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for JOY; for eye to eye they see the 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!

##### RESPONSE

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**



Do you know what  
"God with us" means?  
It is eternity's sonnet,  
heaven's hallelujah,  
the shout  
of the glorified,  
the song  
of the redeemed.

~C.H. Spurgeon



This is the message  
of Christmas:  
We are never alone.

~Taylor Caldwell

Immanuel:  
God Is With Us!

The delta symbol,  $\Delta$  (the triangle), indicates a stanza which praises the Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

**HYMN RESPONSE # 376 "Once in Royal David's City"**

**EPISTLE READING Hebrews 1:1-12**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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"? And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "Let all God's angels worship Him." Of the angels He says, "He makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire." But of the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 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."

**RESPONSE**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN RESPONSE # 380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

**ACCLAMATION**

L: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1-18**

L: 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 any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

L: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through Him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

C: **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

L: He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**ALL: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us!**

L: And we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (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.'")

**ALL: And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**

L: For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

**RESPONSE**

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ! Glory to God in the highest!**

**HYMN RESPONSE # 367:1, 2 & 5 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" *Please stand for st. 5***

**MESSAGE "Jesus: 'The Radiance of God's Glory'" Hebrews 1:1-12 *Pastor Brad Stoltenow***

**HYMN RESPONSE TO GOD GIVING JOYFULLY # 358, select stanzas "From Heaven Above"**

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, and see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery that You might share Your JOY with me.

Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare,  
It would be far too poor and small a cradle for the Lord of all.

Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough  
On which as King, so rich and great, to be enthroned in royal state.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart for You to dwell within my heart.

Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

**RESPONSE OF FAITH**

*Martin Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed*

**ALL:** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true!

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*



**Preparation for Holy Communion**

*One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:28-29*  
Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with Pastor.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

*1 John 1:8-9; LSB # 360; John 20:19-23*

- P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)*
- P: Confident of God's forgiveness, let us then confess our sins to God our Father:
- C: **I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before You of all my sins, Lord. I have lived as if You did not matter and I mattered most. I have not honored Your name, and my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I am sorry for all my sins and plead for Your mercy in Christ Jesus. Graciously forgive me all my sins and help me change my sinful life. Amen.**
- P: Should we fear our God's displeasure who, to save us, freely gave us His most precious treasure?
- C: **To redeem us, He has given His own Son from the throne of His might in heaven!**
- P: God is loving and merciful! May He strengthen your faith. 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!**

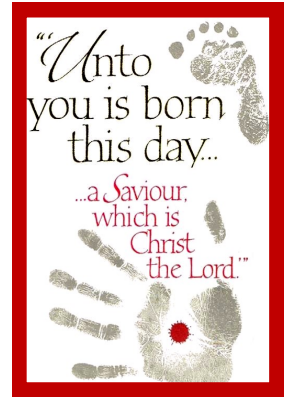
**HOLY COMMUNION: PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS**

*LSB # 360; Psalm 136; LSB # 379:2-3*

- P: All my heart rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices:
- C: **"Christ is born!" their choirs are singing, until the air everywhere with JOY is ringing!**
- ALL: See the Lamb, taking our sin to the cross and full atonement making.**
- P: Come, then, one and all, come with songs of gladness!
- C: **We offer to God our highest praise!**

**PROPER PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS**

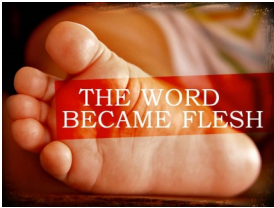
- P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, praising You forever!



What begins at Christmas is fulfilled on Easter. The story of Christmas is a story of hope; it is God's promise of salvation for His people.

Martin Luther writes:  
*Good news from heaven the angels bring, glad tidings to the earth they sing: To us this day a Child is given to crown us with the JOY of heaven.*

The promise of Christmas brings JOY to the hearts of Christians everywhere. On this holy day, let us dwell on the blessings God has bestowed upon us all, and let us give thanks!



Each time we receive the Lord's Supper, we receive again the best gift of CHRISTmas: Christ Himself, Immanuel ~ GodWithUs

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

**ALL:** 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

Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:23-25

### PAX DOMINI ~ THE PEACE OF THE LORD

John 20:19

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always!  
**C:** And also with you!

### AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29

**P:** Lamb of God, You came to this earth to take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
**C:** Lamb of God, You came to this earth to take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
**ALL:** Lamb of God, You came to this earth to take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, and give us Your peace. Amen! Glory to God in the highest!



### DISTRIBUTION

You will be ushered forward for Communion.

When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.

If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.

Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

**HYMNS** # 389 "Let All Together Praise Our God" # 390 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**P:** We pray together:  
**ALL:** God the Father, 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 with JOY; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

### BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

**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!

**HYMN** # 373 "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

### POSTLUDE

✕ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✕



Please join us to finish 2023 and begin 2024 in Worship!  
New Year's Eve Day ~ 8 & 10:45am | Epiphany January 6 ~ 6:30pm



**Benediction:** We leave this house of worship to live out our JOY in the Lord in our life together with each other, our neighbors, and the world. JOY to the world from God in heaven!

LORD, LAY SOME SOUL  
UPON MY HEART  
AND LOVE THAT SOUL  
THROUGH ME;  
AND MAY I GLADLY  
DO MY PART  
TO WIN THAT SOUL  
FOR THEE. AMEN!