

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025



Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Theme of Today's Liturgy

Heaven and earth rejoice this night because the glory of the Triune God is manifested in the birth of “our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (*Epistle*). In Him the Father's grace, mercy and peace rest upon the world and the silence of death is broken by these “good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people” (*Holy Gospel*). All we who have gone astray like lost and wandering sheep, who have walked in the darkness of doubt and fear and sinful unbelief, behold a great light in the nativity of Christ. This Child of Mary who is born for us, this dear Son of God who is given to us, will bear the burden of our sin and death in His own body on the cross.

Guests

Welcome to the Divine Service! We are delighted to have you with us. If we can assist you in any way, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you. Please note your attendance with us on the card in your pew and pass it towards the center aisle during the offering. We hope you will visit us again!

Our Belief and Practice Concerning the Lord's Supper

The shepherds were told where to find Jesus on the first Christmas night. We are told where to find Him still today; no longer in the manger, but in the bread and wine with His true body and blood. As we receive His gift of Himself for the forgiveness of our sins, the greatest gift we can give to others is a loving witness to the truth of His Word. Because we care about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table, guests desiring to commune today are asked to speak with Pastor Gerike before the service.

A Special Welcome to Those with Young Children

You and your children are welcome here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk, so don't feel embarrassed by it. Feel free to sit toward the front where your children can see easily. Encourage them to chime in on their parts: *Amen! And with thy spirit! Lord, have mercy! Our Father!* Sing, say, and pray your parts as best you can; your children learn by your example. If you and your child must leave for a moment, there is a children's area downstairs underneath the narthex. Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us rejoice in our Lord's words, “Let the little children come to Me...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Lk 18:16). You and your children are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to smile, encourage, and help you.

Bulletin Cover Art: *Nativity* (ca. 1643), oil on canvas, Philippe de Champaigne (1602–74), Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille, Lille, France.

The Divine Service

†-- congregation stands

“This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Gen 28:17)

The Preparation

Pre-Service Music

The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

Sung for centuries on Christmas night, this chant relates the birth of Christ to the major events and persons of sacred and secular history before concluding with the announcement of the Son of God’s birth in human flesh.

*The eighth day before the first of January, fifth day of the lunar month.
Five thousand one hundred ninety-nine years having passed since the creation of the world,
when in the beginning God created heaven and earth and formed man in His own image;
twenty-nine and-a-half centuries after the flood,
when the Most High placed His rainbow in the heavens as a sign of the covenant and of peace;
from the migration of Abraham, our father in faith, from Ur of the Chaldeans, twenty centuries;
from the exodus of the people of Israel out of Egypt, led by Moses, fifteen centuries;
from the anointing of David as king, about one thousand years;
in the sixty-fifth week according to Daniel’s prophecy;
in the year of the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
from the founding of the city of Rome, seven hundred and fifty-two years;
in the rule of Cæsar Octavian Augustus, the forty-second year;
the whole world being at peace:
Jesus Christ, eternal God, the eternal Father’s Son,
being pleased by His coming to consecrate the world, by the Holy Spirit conceived,
nine months having passed since His conception,
in Bethlehem of Judah was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.*

Please STAND for the Processional Hymn when the chime rings three times.

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

The Service of the Word

† Introit

*sung by the pastor**Psalm 2; antiphon: Psalm 93*

HE Lord hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee.

The Lord reigneth, He is clothed with majesty:

the Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded Himself.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Lord hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee.

† Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

† The Gloria in Excelsis



Glo-ry be to God on high: **G**And on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee, we glo-ri-fy Thee,

we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glo-ry, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,
 God the Fa-ther Al - might-y. O Lord, the on-ly be-got-ten
 Son, Je-sus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,
 that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on_ us.
 Thou that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, *re-ceive our prayer.* Thou that
 sit-test at the right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer-cy up-on us.
 For Thou on - ly art ho - ly, Thou on - ly art the Lord.
 Thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most
 high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

† Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A-men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

In those days the LORD spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

This is the Word of the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

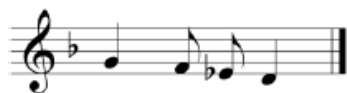
Hymn 377 *On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing*

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

Beloved: the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

This is the Word of the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

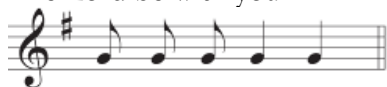
Hymn 358 stanzas 1–7 *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Please stand and face the center aisle as the Holy Gospel is carried into the sanctuary.

† Holy Gospel

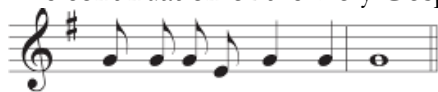
St. Luke 2:1–20 (KJV)

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

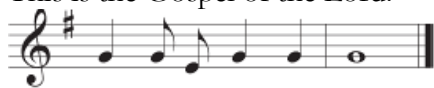
The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.



Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord!

✠ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed (and this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria). And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.” And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

† **Nicene Creed** *p. 191 / inside back cover of hymnal*

Hymn of the Day 360 *All My Heart Again Rejoices*

Sermon

Offering/Hymn 379 stanzas 1–3 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Please note your attendance on the card in your pew and pass to the center aisle

† **Announcements & Prayer of the Church**

After each petition: Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

At the conclusion: ...one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament of the Altar

† **Preface and Sanctus**

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up un-to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



It is meet and right so to do.

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

Ho - ly, — ho - ly, — ho - ly, — Lord God of
 Sab - a-oth; heav - en and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is — He that com - eth in the
 name of the Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

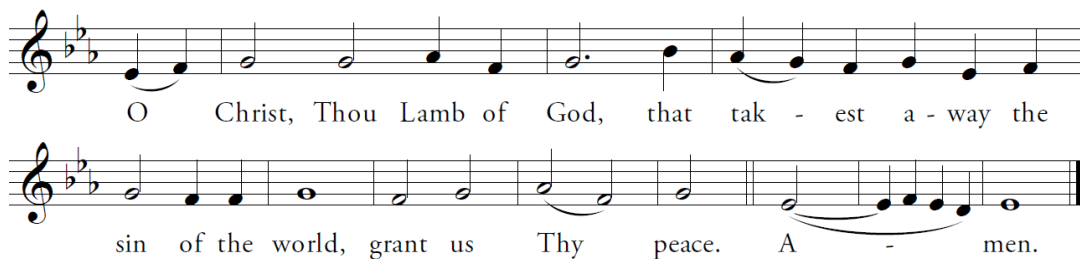
† The Lord's Prayer

† The Words of Christ's Testament

† Pax Domini & Agnus Dei

The peace of the ☩ Lord be with you always.

A - men.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God
 that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



***Guests:** if you have not previously received Holy Communion at Mount Calvary, please speak with Pastor Gerike before approaching the altar for the first time.*

***Communicants:** you may receive the Body of Christ either in the hand or directly in the mouth. If you receive the Blood of Christ from the chalice, please take the bottom of the chalice with a hand to help guide it to your mouth.*

Communicants are invited to pray the following before receiving the Sacrament:

O Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof;
but speak only Your Word, and my soul will be healed.

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will take the Cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord.

If you are not receiving Communion, you are invited to pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, as the hem of Your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch Your body, grant through Your tender mercy that my soul may be healed by like faith in You, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

- 358 *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* (stanzas 8–15)
- 368 *Angels We Have Heard on High*
- 376 *Once in Royal David's City*
The First Noel (see pages 14–15)
- 366 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*
- 361 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

† Dismissal

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul unto life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Amen.

† Nunc Dimittis and Post-Communion Collect *pages 199–201*

† Candlelight Service

After the Post-Communion Collect, the Service concludes in candlelight.

To avoid spilling wax please keep the lit candle upright and tilt the unlit candle.

The hymn is sung after all candles are lit and the pastor has returned to the altar:

1. **Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**
2. **Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**
3. **Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

Bless we the Lord.

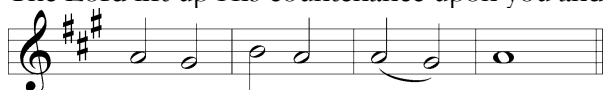


☐ Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☒ give you peace.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love.

“Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!”

Psalms 84:4

Merry Christmas!

Please join us for our Christmas Day Divine Service tomorrow at 10:00 am.

Upcoming Holy Days:

First Sunday after Christmas: Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 am

New Years' Eve: Wednesday, December 31 at 6:30 pm

Second Sunday after Christmas—Cantata Service, January 4 at 10:00 am

The Epiphany of Our Lord: Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 pm.

The First Noel



1. The first No - el the an - gel did
 2. They look - ed up and saw a
 3. And by the light of that same
 4. This star drew near to the north -
 5. Then ent - ered in those Wise Men



say Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they
 star Shin - ing in the east be - yond them
 star Three Wise Men came from coun - try
 west, O'er Beth - le - hem it took its
 three, Full rev' - rent - ly up - on their



lay; In fields where they lay, keep - ing their
 far; And to the earth it gave great
 far; To seek for a king was their in -
 rest; And there it did both stop and
 knee, And off - ered there in His pres -



sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so
 light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and
 tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it
 stay Right o - ver the place where Je - sus
 ence Their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in -



deep.
night.
went.
lay.
cense.

No - el, No - el, No -



el, No el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

402-551-0244

www.mountcalvary-lcms.org

The Reverend Andrew Gerike, Pastor
pastor@mountcalvary-lcms.org
Study Hours: Tues–Fri 8:30a.m.–12:00 p.m.
afternoons by appointment

Church Office
Ms. Melissa Kern, Secretary
office@mountcalvary-lcms.org
Mon thru Fri 9:00 am–1:00 pm

Our Service Schedule:

The Divine Service with Holy Communion is offered every Sunday and on holy days as announced. Vespers is prayed in Advent & Lent on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Receiving Communion at Mt. Calvary: We care about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to Pastor Gerike before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or of a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

Adult Bible Class is taught every Sunday morning at 8:45 in the sanctuary.

Sunday School for children ages 3-12 is year-round. Lessons are focused on the readings for that Sunday and activities are designed to reinforce the biblical lesson.

Pastoral Consultation based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the pastor by appointment

The Sick and Homebound are visited regularly by the pastor. Please contact the Church Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

Serving Today

Organist – Annika Buckley

Duet – Anastasia & Cecilia Gerike

Acolytes – Jace Bohnert & Elijah Gerike

Counters – Carlene Lange & Carrie Rhine

Ushers – Cameron Shilling, Josh Bohnert, Jace Bohnert, Dan Bartels

Soloist – Silvalyn Bohnert

Elder – Rich Marunda

Trustee – Jasiah Morgan