

Messiah Lutheran Church



**Christmas Midnight
+ The Nativity of our Lord +
Divine Service, Setting I
December 24/25, A+D 2015**

Invocation

p151

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

+CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION+

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

Entrance Hymn

On This Still and Silent Night

MLC Choir

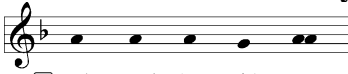
Kyrie

p152

Gloria in Excelsis

p154

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



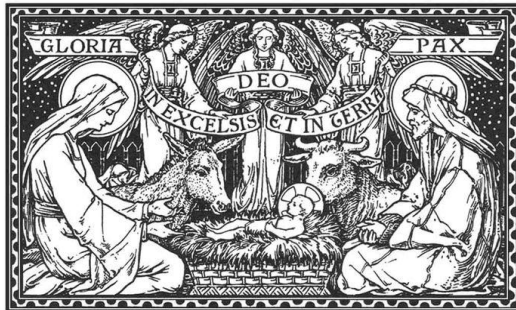
G And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

P 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.



G A - men.



Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
- ³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- ⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace

there will be no end,
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
 to establish it and to uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Away in a Manger

LSB 365



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. 1–3) and Tune: Public domain

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 1–3



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

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

14“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is
pleased!”

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 4–5, 8, 13-15



4 “He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
5 “These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made.”

8 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.

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

- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 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.

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

p158

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory

p159

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT+

Preface

p160

Sanctus

p161

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Our Lord

p162

Proclamation of Christ

Lord's Prayer

Pax Domini

p163

Agnus Dei

Sit

Distribution

What Child is This?

LSB 370

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

LSB 377

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

p165

Post-Communion Collect

p166

+++Proclamation of the Birth of Christ+++

Benediction

The acolytes will share the light with the person at the end of each pew. Each candle thereafter will be lit from person to person until all candles are lit.

Please remember to tip the unlit candles, not the burning candles when passing the flame. The candles may be extinguished after the hymn.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366



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.

VISITORS WELCOME! A special welcome to any visitors and guests who are with us today. Please introduce yourself to the pastor after the service, and we pray that the hearing and receiving of the Word of God in our midst will be filled with joy and thanksgiving!

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: During the offering we ask that you sign the attendance register located at the center aisle of each pew. Please hand the filled in sheet to the usher as you exit at the end of the service. Let the usher know if you don't have a pad in your pew.

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION may be found in the opening cover of the hymnals in each pew. Take some time before the service begins in quiet preparation and prayer.



A word about the Communion practice of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated every Sunday and on Feast Days. Visiting communicant members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are invited to commune today. All other visitors are asked to speak with the pastor before coming to the altar. If there is time before the service, introduce yourself to the pastor or an elder. Other visitors are invited to use this time for prayer. If you desire information about attending communion, you are encouraged to visit with the pastor after the service today.