

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Family (7 PM)**

**– Christmas Midnight Communion & Communion (11:30 PM)**

**Please contact the church if you wish to have a Communion kit and candles for participation in the services while at home. Both services will be broadcast on Facebook Live.**

**HYMN No. 366 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”**

**It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats O’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.**

**All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of him the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.**

**INVOCATION**

**P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P: That our eyes and our ears may be open to receive the mystery of God's love, let us first empty ourselves of everything that has closed our hearts to God, confessing our sin and need of forgiveness and life.**

*(We take a moment of silence to contemplate the mystery of God's grace)*

**P: O God our Father,**

**C: At Your gracious invitation and command, I confess all my sins to You; the very thoughts, words, and deeds with which I have offended You and hurt my neighbor. I come now in the sincere hope and faith of Your mercy and promise of forgiveness which You made known to the whole world in the mystery of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed His own flesh and blood for me. Remove my sin and guilt for His sake, and restore a right spirit within me. Amen.**

*(Pastor pronounces the forgiveness of sins)*

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,**

**C: the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P: Let Your light scatter the darkness**

**C: and illumine Your Church.**

## **HYMN "We Light the Advent Candle"**

**We light the Advent candle  
And wait for Christ to come.  
With hope, we trust the promise  
That He will bring us home.  
Our hope is in our Savior  
Who wins for us God's favor.  
We wait with growing light  
Till God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle  
And thank the Lord for rest.  
With peace, we know our Jesus  
Has come to be our guest.  
This peace beyond all knowing  
Within our hearts is glowing.  
We wait with growing light  
Till God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle  
And sing with cheerful heart.  
With joy, we spread the message—  
A blessing to impart.  
Our joy is never ending;  
The Son to us is sending.  
We wait with growing light  
Till God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle  
And share the wondrous Word.  
With love, we tell of Jesus  
Till all around have heard.  
God's love is for each nation  
Throughout His whole creation.  
We wait with growing light  
Till God makes all things right!**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P: Let us pray.**

**Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Strengthen our hearts by the gift of faith in mystery of Your incarnation, and keep us by Your power to be Your own; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *2 Samuel 7:1–11,16*  
(The Lord's covenant with David)

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

L:     This is the Word of the Lord.

C:     Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE**     *Romans 16:25–27 (Doxology)*

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**VERSE**      *Matthew 1:23a*

**L:** Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

**C:** and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**      *Luke 1:26–38*      (The birth of Jesus foretold)

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN No. 383**

**“A Great and Mighty Wonder”**

**A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure! Refrain**

**Refrain:**

**Proclaim the Savior’s birth:  
“To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth!”**

**The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. Refrain**

**While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain**

**Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Bethlehem, The Savior and the Lord. Refrain**

**All idol then shall perish, And Satan’s lying cease,  
The Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace. Refrain**

**SERMON “If Christmas isn’t Doxology, It’s just Hoopla!” Romans 16:25-27  
Pastor Vern**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH THE NICENE CREED *Please stand***

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P: Praise and thanks to You, O Lord,**

**C: for creating the heavens and the earth,**

**P: for Your mercy to Adam and Eve in the promise of a Savior  
to crush the Ancient Serpent's head,**

**C: for delivering Noah and his family in the flood,**

**P:** for freeing the Israelites from oppression in Egypt,  
**C:** for sending the prophets to expose sin  
and renew the promise of the Savior.

**P:** Praise and thanks to You, O Lord,  
**C:** for choosing Mary to be the mother of our Lord,

**P:** for the birth of Jesus, Your Word in the flesh among us,  
**C:** for Jesus' love for the poor, the sick, the oppressed, the hungry,

**P:** for Jesus' sacrificial death by which He bore our sins on the cross,  
**C:** for Jesus' glorious resurrection dawn,

**P:** for Jesus' promise to come again in the fullness of His glory.  
**C:** Praise and thanks to You, O Lord,

**P:** for this gift of Christ's body and blood,  
**C:** for the forgiveness of our sins in this Holy Meal,

**P:** for this congregation and our oneness in the body and blood of Christ,  
**C:** for this foretaste of the feast to come.

**ALL:** Praise to You: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**C:** Amen.

**SANCTUS (Before You, Lord, We Bow) LSB 966 (vs. 1)**

**Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below, Boundless in pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,  
Our hearts we raise To You, our King!**

**SELF-REFLECTION (In preparation of receiving the Sacrament, let us take this  
moment of silence for self-reflection)**

- 1. Are you baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?**
- 2. Do you know you are a sinner in need of God's grace?**
- 3. Do you believe Jesus died to atone for your sins?**

4. Do I believe that God offers His forgiveness through the “real” presence of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine?
5. Do you seek to amend your sinful life?

If you have answered “Yes” to all of these questions you are *encouraged* to come. Jesus said, “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

#### **AS WE APPROACH THE TABLE OF THE LORD**

**P: Let us now approach the table of the Lord with sincere hearts, joyfully receiving His promised presence, in, with and under the elements of bread and wine...**

**Merciful Lord,**

**C: we do not presume to come to this Your table, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table.**

**But You are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed, through His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)**

**P: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:**

**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 PEACE OF THE LORD**

**P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

**C: And also with you.**

## **WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**P: With the very words of Christ we consecrate and partake of this sacred meal.**

**P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."**

**(Let us eat together the body of Christ.)**

**In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**

**(Let us drink together from the cup of salvation, the blood of Christ shed for our sins.)**

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (LSB 367 - vss. 4 & 5)**

**Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear.**

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th'eternal Three in One. (Refrain)**

## **BLESSING OF THE LORD**

**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 No. 349     "Hark the Glad Sound"**

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With thy beloved name.**

## **SENDING**

**P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord**

**C: Thanks be to God.**