

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome Pastor Perry Schefelker, our guest Proclaimer for today!

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**INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**HYMN No. 361** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vss. 1 & 2)

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears Of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, The angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king,  
And peace to all the earth!

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.*

P: The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.

C: **We thank You, O Lord!**

P: The Lord's mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

C: **We adore You, O Lord!**

P: The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.

C: **We praise You, O Lord!**

P: The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.

**C: We worship You, O Lord!**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 25:6-7*

P: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

*A time of silence is observed.*

P: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.

**C: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**C: according to Your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

## **HYMN No. 361** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vss. 3 & 4)

**How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts To human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him,  
still The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, And enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, Abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!**

## ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE No. 365

“Away in a Manger”

**Away in a manger no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle ‘till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, And love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.  
Into this world of turmoil, You, O Lord, bring peace.

C: **Let the peace that calmed the troubled heart of Mary so rule in our hearts and minds**

P: that by Your power we may all become peacemakers

C: **in our homes, in our community, and in our church;**

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Micah 5:2–5a* (Out of little Bethlehem will be born a ruler for God’s people, a Good Shepherd, who will bring peace.)

**But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,**

whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.  
And he shall be their peace.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**     *Hebrews 10:5–10*     (Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we live.)

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**     *Matthew 1:23a*

P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

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

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)*     (Even while in Mary's womb, the presence of Jesus caused Elizabeth and the baby in her womb to rejoice!)

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

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

(The Gospel is read.)

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of

Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **HYMN No. 543** "What Wondrous Love is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

**SERMON** "Mary's Song: How God Changes Things" Luke 1:46-55  
Pastor Perry Schefelker

**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**

P: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

*A brief time of silence may be observed.*

P: O Wisdom from on high, give us peace. Move all the people of Your holy Church to be peacemakers in our congregation, in our homes and community, and in our nation and the world.

We pray,

**P: hear us, coming Lord.**

P: O Desire of nations, bless those who lead the nations of the world, and especially those of our beloved country and its local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

**P: hear us, coming Lord.**

P: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially . . .*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

**C: hear us, coming Lord.**

P: O Key of David, let Your peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

**C: hear us, coming Lord.**

P: O Lord of might, let the peace that surpasses human understanding, the peace that comes from being in Christ, so fill our hearts that we become signs of Your peace in this chaotic world. We pray,

**C: hear us, coming Lord.**

P: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

**C: hear us, coming Lord.**

P: Ever-Present Lord, We welcome Your company in all our celebrations for You come bringing Your gifts of Peace and Love and Joy. This morning we seek Your blessing for those who are attaining milestones of life. This week we honor the birthday celebrations of Tammy Ellington, Carrie Johnson, Danielle Stake, Jaye Drouin, and Joseph Monaco; and the anniversary celebration of Rick & Barb Applegate. Open the storehouse of Your blessing upon them and keep them to the day of Your deliverance when all our celebrations will merge into one giant and joyous Jubilee in heaven.

We pray,

**P: hear us, coming Lord.**

- P: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayers we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

## OFFERING

### ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**SELF-REFLECTION** (As the Sacrament is being prepared, let us take this moment of silence to prepare our hearts to receive this sacred meal.)

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 you 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. For Jesus said that His body was given and His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

## AS WE APPROACH THE TABLE OF THE LORD

P: Let us pray as we approach the table of the Lord. 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.

## 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: We give You all thanks, praise, and worship for the peace that comes through Jesus. For the forgiveness of our sins,

**C: we thank You, Lord.**

P: For embracing us as Your beloved children in Holy Baptism,

**C: we thank You, Lord.**

P: For giving us Your Word, which brings us down a notch when we are filled with pride and lifts us up when we are brought low,

**C: we thank You, Lord.**

P: For entering this broken creation to take upon Yourself all this world's sin and evil, to suffer and die, and then, in fulfillment of the ancient promise, to rise from the grave,

**C: we thank You, Lord.**

P: For this gift of Christ's body and blood, life-giving food for our journey through this tumultuous world, and that we may now live in Your kingdom and forever worship and adore You in the Kingdom to come,

**C: we thank You, Lord. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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**

(“From All That Dwell” - LSB 816, vs. 3)

All praise to God the Father be,  
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Whom with the Spirit we adore  
Forever and forevermore:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**BLESSING OF THE LORD**

*Luke 1:54–55; Numbers 6:24–26*

P: The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord smile upon you and ✕ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN No. 375**

“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” (1,2,5,6)

**Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing his love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.**

**Christ, from heaven to us descending  
And in love our race befriending;  
In our need his help extending,  
Saved us from the wily foe.**

**Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing  
And to you we come confessing  
Your great love has set us free.**

**Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.**

## **SENDING**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God!**