



MERRY  
*Christmas*

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace  
to men on whom his favor rests.” ~ LUKE 2:14

## The Lord's Supper

Christ Jesus intends to strengthen and improve our fellowship with Him and one another through the proper practice of Holy Communion. We must examine ourselves as to whether we truly repent of our sins and believe in the Real Presence of Christ's body and blood under the bread and wine. Also, any refusal to forgive and love our neighbor must be disowned, for in the Sacrament we are most fully at one with Christ and one another, and so we may bring no contradiction of this with us to the Sacrament. **There are helpful prayers in the hymnal inside the front cover and on pages 308, 329-330.** If you are a guest from a sister Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation we invite you to commune with us. Please speak with the pastor or an elder so we may notify your church that you celebrated the Sacrament with us.

## The Preparation

### Entrance Hymn: "Joy to the World" #387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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

C: **Amen.**

P Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born. Let us rejoice for sadness should not have any place in this, the birthday of life itself. Death and its fear have been swallowed up; life now offers the promise of eternal joy and happiness. No one is omitted from this joy – all share the same cause for rejoicing and celebration. Because none is free from sin, our Lord came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice for the palm of victory is near. Let the sinner be glad – hearing the promise of forgiveness. Let the believer take heart – God has summoned His world to life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: We then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Holy name.**

P: My friends, you share God's nature as God has chosen to share yours. Do not return to sin and to your former way of life. Bear in mind who is your head and to whose body you belong. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the marvelous light of God's kingdom. In the stead and by the command of my Lord and Savior, 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.**

### **Collect of the Day**

P: 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.**

## The Word

### Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 62:10-12

*<sup>10</sup> Pass through, pass through the gates!  
Prepare the way for the people.  
Build up, build up the highway!  
Remove the stones.  
Him.”*

*Raise a banner for the nations.*

*<sup>11</sup> The Lord has made proclamation  
to the ends of the earth:*

*“Say to Daughter Zion,  
‘See, your Savior comes!  
See, His reward is with Him,  
and His recompense accompanies*

*<sup>12</sup> They will be called the Holy People,  
the Redeemed of the Lord;  
and you will be called Sought After,  
the City No Longer Deserted.*

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Lesson: Titus 3:4-7

*<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Hymn: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" #384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text and tune: Public domain

## **Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20**

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

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

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a Child.

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the Baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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

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

**Nicene Creed:**

**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 He 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.**

**And 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.**



Hymn of the Day: "Silent Night, Holy Night" #363

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy  
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Tune and text: Public domain



**Sermon Text: John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Sermon Theme: "Christ, The Savior Is Born!"**



*Offertory: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" #358 (Tune 461)*

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 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.
- 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.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Prayers:**

*(Congregation sings bold responses)*

P: O Jesus, powerful yet gentle Lord, guide and guard us in paths of faithfulness and service that we may fulfill Your will.

**Let us all with gladsome voice, Praise the God of heaven,  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.**

P: O Jesus, Friend of the poor and treasure of the faithful, reach out in compassion through us, Your people, with the Good News of Your heavenly kingdom and use us and our gifts that we offer to You to show Your grace to the world.

**We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore, Here on earth and yonder.**

P: O Jesus, God of peace, Friend to the stranger, and Refuge of all who are in need, grant healing and hope to all who are in need and give joy to those who celebrate today.

**To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,  
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes, We may reign in gladness.**

P: O Jesus, our Joy whom we praise and sing about, as You have fulfilled the promise of Your coming, fulfill the promise of Your redemption by calling the world to faith and life so that they too may sing in Your reign now and forever.

**Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

## *The Sacrament*

### The Lord's Prayer:

**C: 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**

### Words of Institution:

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."

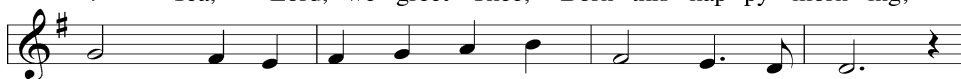
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### *Distribution Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

#379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!

Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

### Distribution Hymn: "A Great and Mighty Wonder" #383

1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,  
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,  
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,  
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,

The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.  
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.  
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.  
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

*Refrain*

Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be

glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text and tune: Public domain

### Prayer

**P:** We give thanks, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through Your gift of Your Body and Blood. We pray that through this Sacrament, You would strengthen us in both body and soul. In Jesus, our Lord's name, we pray.

**C:** Amen

## Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you † and give you peace.

C: Amen

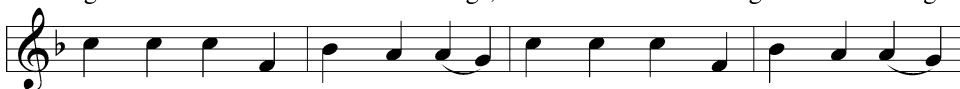
## Closing Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

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### Acknowledgments

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