

SILENT

NIGHT,

HOLY

NIGHT



# Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!



**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

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December 24, 2022

*Christmas Eve*

## Welcome

### *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*LSB 367*

**1** Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story,  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. *Refrain*

*ref* *Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

**2** Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*

**3** Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen his natal star. *Refrain*

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

**△ 5** All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

*Stand*

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

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

## Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.*

- P** Let us confess our sins to God the 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. Amen.**
- 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.

## Kyrie

LSB 152

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C** Amen.

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154

- P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.  
**C** **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:  
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Collect of the Day**

*LSB 156*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you**

**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 joy 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.

**C** **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace

there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*Titus 2:11-14*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

**C** Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:1-20*

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

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

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 our Lord

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*LSB 368*

**1** Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

**ref** Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**2** Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*

**3** Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

### **Homily**

*Stand*

### **Nicene Creed**

**C** 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  $\text{†}$  of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

## **Prayers of the Church**

### **Presentation of the Offering**

*Please sign the Friendship Register located on each pew and pass it to others seated with you so that we may have a record of all those who are worshiping and receiving communion with us today.*

*Stand*

### **Preface**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

*LSB 160*

- 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.**

## Sanctus

LSB 161

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## Lord's Prayer

### The Words of Our Lord

#### Agnus Dei

LSB 163

- C** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

#### Distribution

*We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith.*

*If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit.*

#### What Child Is This?

LSB 370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*LSB 361*

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.
- 4 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;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the Undefined,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
Can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found his favor.
- 2 Angels sang about his birth,  
Wise Men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth  
Glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth;  
Hail the King of glory!

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

LSB 377

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.
- 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,

When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

3 When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place,  
When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.

4 All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God and peace to men  
Now and forevermore. Amen.”

## Dismissal

*Stand*

## Thank the Lord

*LSB 164*

- C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Benediction

- 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.

## Sharing of the Light

*At this time we light our candles to symbolize the sharing of God's light through Christ. Ushers will light the candles of those seated on the center aisle. Please pass the flame by tipping the unlit candle toward the lit candle.*

## *Silent Night, Holy Night*

*LSB 363*

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.**

## **Announcements**

### **Sending**

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.



**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

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Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people,  
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