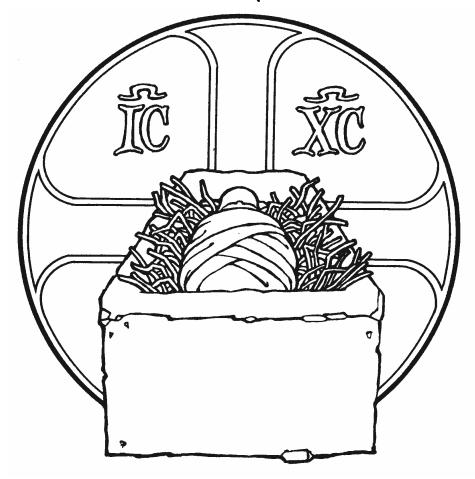
Divine Service



The Nativity of our Lord

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Zion Lutheran Church Kearney, Nebraska

H Warm Welcome to Our Guests!

Please sign our guest book in the narthex or a pew card so we can know how we can best of serve. If you are a member in good standing of a sister LC-MS congregation, we invite you to commune with us. Members of other church bodies with whom we are not in confessional fellowship are asked to please refrain from communing. Our pastor will be happy to explain how our desire for Christian care and unity is shown in our communion practice. All communicants need to register in the narthex prior to the service. Those not communing are invited to come to the altar, cross your arms in front of you, and bow your head to receive a pastoral blessing.

## The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness

Heaven and earth rejoice this night because the glory of the holy Triune God is manifested in the human birth of "our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). In Him, the Father's grace, mercy and peace rest upon the world. The silence of death is broken by this "good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). And all we who have gone astray like lost and wandering sheep, who have "walked in darkness" of doubt and fear and sinful unbelief, behold "a great light" in the nativity of Christ (Is. 9:2). In Him "the grace of God has appeared" (Titus 2:11). For this child of Mary who is born for us, this dear Son of God who is given to us, bears the burden of our sin and death in His own body to the cross. He thereby establishes a government of peace, "with justice and with righteousness," which shall have no end; not by any work of man, but "the zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Is. 9:7).



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

#### Invocation

- $\mathbf{P}$  In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

#### Exhortation

- LSB 184
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

## **Confession of Sins**

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

## Absolution

#### LSB 185

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord 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.

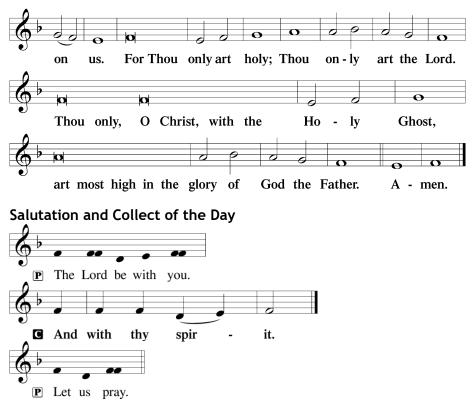
#### Stand

# Service of the Word

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful sts. 1, ref, 2-4 10 all ye faith - ful. Joy ful and tri - um - phant! O come, 2 Light of High est, most ho - ly, Light e - ter - nal,  $\overline{3}$ choirs of an - gels, ex - ul - ta - tion, Sing, Sing in 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing; come ye, 0 come\_ ye to Beth le - hem: of Born vir gin. mor tal He comes: а а all cit - i of a - bove! Sing, ye zens heav en Thee\_ be. Je sus. to glo ry giv'n! Come and be hold Him Born the king of an - gels: the Fa - ther Now flesh Son of in ap - pear - ing! the. Glo ry to God\_ In high - est: of the Fa - ther Now in Word flesh ap - pear - ing! Refrain O come. let a - dore Him. 0 come, let us a - dore Him. us Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 Text and tune: Public domain the Lord!



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



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.



Sit

#### **Old Testament Reading**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
<sup>3</sup>You 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.
<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, Isaiah 9:2–7

and the staff for his shoulder. the rod of his oppressor, vou have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>Of 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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

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.

Sing to the Lord a | new song,\*

for he has done | marvelous things!

## Epistle

*Titus 2:11–14* 

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our 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 lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Stand

## Verse of the Day

Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

Luke 2:11

#### Holy Gospel

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

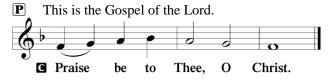


<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee,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

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

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"



### 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 + of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

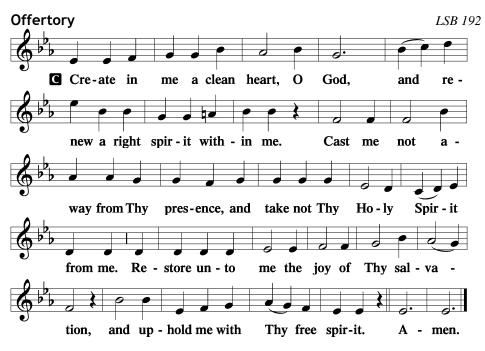


That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state. That sweetest ancient cradlesong: Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann Text and tune: Public domain

### Sermon

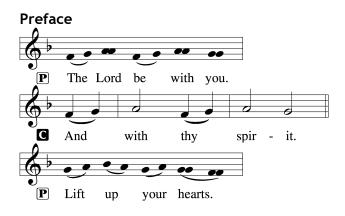
Stand



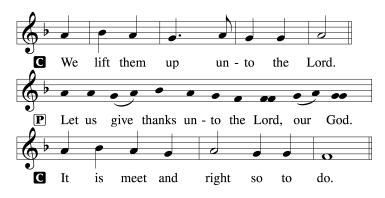
## Prayer of the Church

Please extend the "Peace of the Lord" to those around you as the offering is being gathered and the "Lord's Table" is being prepared.

# Service of the Sacrament

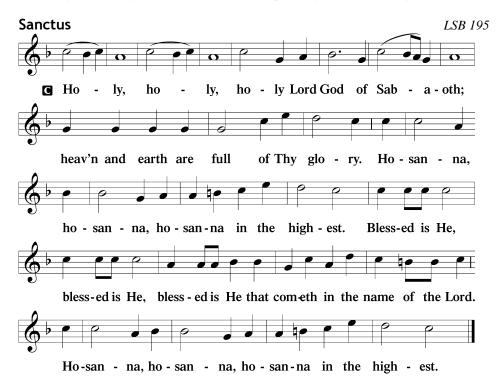


LSB 194



### **Proper Preface**

 It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



## Lord's Prayer

P

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.

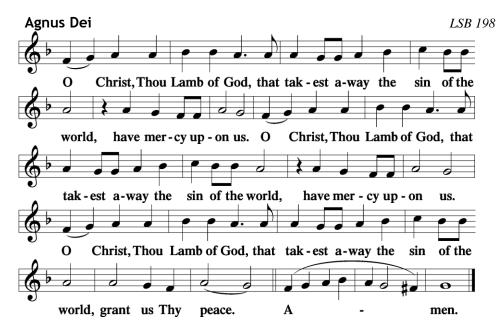
## The Words of Our Lord

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."

## Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.C Amen.



LSB 197

LSB 197







Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929 Text: © 1986 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003744 Tune: © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003744

## The Dismissal

#### LSB 199

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
- **C** Amen.

Stand

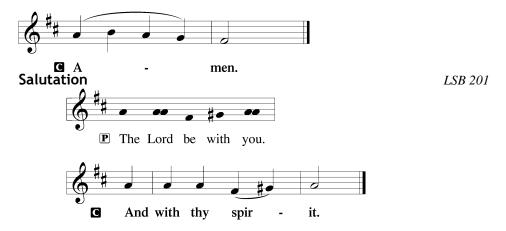




### **Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.





## Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV<sup>®</sup> Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version<sup>®</sup>), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Sunday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> - 5:00p	
Elder: Dan Oertwig	Engineer: Eric Rosenthal
Usher: Mike Wilkens	Altar Guild: Beth Rosenthal &
	Shirley Helmbrecht
Sunday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> - 7:00p - Christmas Eve	
Elder: Dan Oertwig	Usher: All Captains
Acolyte: Addison Helmbrecht	Engineer: Eric Rosenthal
	Altar Guild: Beth Rosenthal &
	Shirley Helmbrecht
Monday, December 25 <sup>th</sup> - 10:00a - Christmas Day	
Elder: Eric Rosenthal	Usher: Mike Wilkens
Acolyte: Grace Burger	Engineer: Zach DeLoach
Crucifer: Landen Eckhoff	Altar Guild: Beth Rosenthal &
Announcer: Lonna Gronewoller	Shirley Helmbrecht
Sunday, December 31 <sup>st</sup> - 9:00a	
Elder: Ken Hockemeier	Usher: Steve Junge
Acolyte: Addison Splittgerber	Engineer: Zach DeLoach
Announcer: Carol Kreutzer	Altar Guild: Beth Rosenthal &
	Shirley Helmbrecht