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December 25, 2025      †      The Nativity of Our Lord

*St. John's Lutheran Church is a supporting congregation Calvary Lutheran High School, Jefferson City, 638-0228.*

# Confession and Absolution

## 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

*sts. 1, ref, 2–4*

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
Text: Public domain

*Stand*

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

## Invocation

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

## Exhortation

*LSB 151*

**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 sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

## Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- P** Let us 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. Amen.

## Absolution

LSB 151

- 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.

*Stand*

# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

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.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!\*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.\*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.  
 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth; \*  
 break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning, \***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
 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.

## Kyrie

*LSB 152*

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** 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.**
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## This Is the Feast

*LSB 155*

- C** **This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

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.

*Sit*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 52:7–10*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,

and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Hebrews 1:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup>And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

**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

*John 1:1–18*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

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

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

### 382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

- 1 We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth;  
Clothed in flesh You came to earth.  
The virgin bears a sinless boy  
And all the angels sing for joy.  
Alleluia!
- 2 Now in the manger we may see  
God's Son from eternity,  
The gift from God's eternal throne  
Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.  
Alleluia!
- 3 The virgin Mary's lullaby  
Calms the infant Lord Most High.  
Upon her lap content is He  
Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.  
Alleluia!
- 4 The Light Eternal, breaking through,  
Made the world to gleam anew;  
His beams have pierced the core of night,  
He makes us children of the light.  
Alleluia!
- 5 The very Son of God sublime  
Entered into earthly time  
To lead us from this world of cares  
To heaven's courts as blessed heirs.  
Alleluia!
- 6 In poverty He came to earth  
Showing mercy by His birth;  
He makes us rich in heav'nly ways  
As we, like angels, sing His praise.  
Alleluia!
- 7 All this for us our God has done  
Granting love through His own Son.  
Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice  
And sing His praise with endless voice.



## Alleluia!

Text (st. 1): German, c. 1380; (sts. 1, 6): tr. Gregory J. Wismar, 1946; (sts. 2–7): Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 2, 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (sts. 3, 5, 7): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006  
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## Sermon

*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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** In thanksgiving and awe at the Word made flesh, that because He has become our brother we now are His sons and daughters through Baptism; and that God would keep us in true faith and fervent love toward each other, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all pastors, that God would work through their proclamation of Christ to bring the good news of joy and salvation to all who hear them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For families who gather in this holy season, that they may have patience and be slow to judge and quick to forgive, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the lonely, that they may be comforted with Christ's presence and we may extend to them the welcome of our homes and the friendship of His grace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those in poverty or want, that they may be helped; that God would increase our generosity; and that we would present our bodies as living sacrifices, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the nations of this world, that they would be given a spirit of peace, so that conflicts would cease and all would see in the birth of Jesus the salvation of our God, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the sick, lonely, grieving and poor in spirit, /especially  
\_\_\_\_\_,/ that they may find comfort and healing in Jesus Christ, the light no darkness can overcome, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** That the Lord would humble our hearts in repentance and give us

faith to receive with joy and thanksgiving the precious gift of His body and blood; and that the Lord would grant to His Church unity of faith and harmony of life and practice, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who suffer persecution for the sake of Christ, that they would be kept firm in their faith as they bear witness to the light of the world; and that they would never lose sight of their identity as children of God, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Your Son, the Word become flesh, the Savior of the nations, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God.

**C** Amen.

## Offering

### Offertory

*LSB 159*

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

*LSB 160*

**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.

## Proper Preface (Full)

- P** It is truly good, 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:

## 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*LSB 161*

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 162*

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

- 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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**

*LSB 163*

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

## **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**

### **624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born**

- 1 The infant Priest was holy born  
For us unholy and forlorn;  
From fleshly temple forth came He,  
Anointed from eternity.

2    This great High Priest in human flesh  
     Was icon of God's righteousness.  
     His hallowed touch brought sanctity;  
     His hand removed impurity.

3    The holy Lamb undaunted came  
     To God's own altar lit with flame;  
     While weeping angels hid their eyes,  
     This Priest became a sacrifice.

4    But death would not the victor be  
     Of Him who hung upon the tree.  
     He leads us to the Holy Place  
     Within the veil, before God's face.

5    The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
     As at the rail on bended knee  
     Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
     The bread of immortality.

6    The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
     A priestly food and priestly meat;  
     On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
     His quenching blood that life restores.

7    With cherubim and seraphim  
     Our voices join the endless hymn,  
     And "Holy, holy, holy" sing  
     To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

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### **384 Of the Father's Love Begotten**

1    Of the Father's love begotten  
     Ere the worlds began to be,  
     He is Alpha and Omega,  
     He the source, the ending He,  
     Of the things that are, that have been,  
     And that future years shall see  
     Evermore and evermore.

2    Oh, that birth forever blessed,  
     When the virgin, full of grace,  
     By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
     Bore the Savior of our race,

And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

3 This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
Text: Public domain

## Hymn

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

### The Dismissal

- P** 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*

### Nunc Dimittis

*LSB 165*

- C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has  
been fulfilled.

**My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared  
in the sight of ev'ry people:**

**A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people  
Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**A** 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.

**C** Amen.

### **Benediction**

*LSB 166*

**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.

### **387 Joy to the World**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow

Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.



- 4    He rules the world with truth and grace  
      And makes the nations prove  
      The glories of His righteousness  
      And wonders of His love,  
      And wonders of His love,  
      And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

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