



# *Our Savior Lutheran*

Dr. L. White, Sr. Pastor • Rev. S. Cholak, Asst. Pastor • J. Armstrong, Music Minister

## *Introduction to the Service:*

*Christ is born. He is born to us. And, He is born today. For Christmas is not merely a day like every other day. It is a day made holy and special by a sacred mystery. It is not merely another day in the weary round of time. Today, eternity enters into time, and time, sanctified, is caught up into eternity. Today, Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who was in the beginning with the Father, in whom all things were made, by whom all things consist, enters into the world which he created in order to reclaim souls who had forgotten their identity. Therefore, the church exults, as the angels come down to announce not merely an old thing which happened long ago, but a new thing which happens today. For today, God the Father makes all things new, in his divine Son, our redeemer. – **Thomas Merton***

## *Order of Divine Service for*

# *Christmas Day*

*Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

**December 25, 2023**



+ + +

*In Nomine Jesu*

*Prelude*

**Sounds of Christmas**

Thoelke Family

## Introduction & Greetings

- P** I bring you good news of great joy: a Savior has been born to you. Alleluia!
- C** *Unto us a child is born, a son is given. Alleluia!*
- P** Hear the words of St. Luke: When the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!
- C** *We worship and adore him. Alleluia!*

## Hymn

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text & Tune: John F. Wade – "Adeste Fideles"; LSB #379 © 2006 CPH



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!

(Stand)

## *Confession of Sin*

- P** As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith: You, Lord, were born for our salvation. Lord, have mercy.
- C** *Lord, have mercy.*
- P** You came as Savior to bring wholeness and peace. Christ, have mercy.
- C** *Christ, have mercy.*
- P** You came to bring light into the darkness of our lives. Lord, have mercy.
- C** *Lord, have mercy.*
- P** Almighty God, sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
- C** *Amen.*

## *Introit*

(Intoned by Pastor with Congregation on Gloria Patri; Psalm 2:1–6; antiphon: v. 7)

I will tell of | the decree:\*

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.”

Why do the | nations rage\*

and the peoples | plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,\*

against the Lord and against his anointed, | saying,

“Let us burst their | bonds apart\*

and cast away their | cords from us.”

He who sits in the | heavens laughs;\*

the Lord holds them in de- | rision.

Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,\*

and terrify them in his fury, | saying,

“As for me, I have | set my King\*

on Zion, my | holy hill.”

**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.**

I will tell of | the decree:\*

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.”

## *Salutation and Collect of the Day*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy day 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.

**C** *Amen.*

*(Be Seated)*

## *Old Testament Reading*

### *Isaiah 9:2–7*

[2] 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. [3] 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. [4] For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. [5] For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. [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. [7] 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.*

## *Ministry of Music*

Blake Crabtree, trumpet





## *Epistle*

### **Titus 2:11–14**

[11] For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, [13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] 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)*

## *Gospel for Christmas Day*

### **St. Luke 2:1–14**

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] And all went to be registered, each to his own town. [4] 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, [5] to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. [6] And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. [7] 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. [8] And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. [10] 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. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12] And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, [14] “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

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



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

## *A Litany of Faith*

- P** We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ;  
**C** *We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both divine and human;*
- P** God, of the being of the Father, the only Son from before time began; human from the being of his mother, born in the world.  
**C** *Fully God and fully human; one human person with mind and body.*
- P** As God he is equal to the Father, as human he is less than the Father.  
**C** *Although He is both divine and human he is not two beings but one Christ.*
- P** One, not by turning God into flesh, but by taking humanity into God.  
**C** *Truly one, not by mixing humanity with godhead, but by being one person.*
- P** For as mind and body form one human being, so the one Christ is both divine and human.  
**C** *The word became flesh and lived among us; we have seen His glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*(Be seated)*



## *Sermon Hymn*

### **Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

Text: Latin & German, 14<sup>th</sup> cent.; Tune: German – “In Dulci Jubilo”; LSB #386 © 2006 CPH



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to Thee.  
3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth      Poor in a man-ger lies;  
Cheer my wea-ried spir - it,      O pure and ho - ly Child;  
Death was reign-ing o'er us      Through sin and van - i - ty  
Where the an - gels sing - ing      With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth      The sun in yon - der skies.  
Through Thy grace and mer - it,      Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
Till He o - pened for us      A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing      In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to Thee!      Draw me un - to Thee!  
May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!  
Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

## *Sermon*

*(Stand for the reading of the text)*

**Text: Isaiah 9:2–7**

***“Heaven in the Manger”***

## *Offering*



## Voluntary

Blake Crabtree, trumpet

(Stand)

## Prayers

- P** We bring before God our needs and the needs of his world. Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. Wonderful Counselor, give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** *Hear our prayer.*
- P** Mighty God, make the whole world know that the government is on your shoulders. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** *Hear our prayer.*
- P** Everlasting Father, establish your reign of justice and righteousness forever. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** *Hear our prayer.*
- P** Prince of peace, bring in the endless kingdom of your peace. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** *Hear our prayer.*
- P** Almighty Lord,
- C** *Hear our prayer, and fulfill your purposes in us, as you accomplished your will in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## 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 And the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen*

## 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."

## *Pax Domini*

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

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

## *Agnus Dei*



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*(Be Seated)*

## *Distribution*

*(This congregation observes the Biblical practice of "Closed Communion." The Word of God teaches that the bread and wine of the Sacrament are the true Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This precious gift of God's grace is to be received in a sense of reverent awe after careful self-examination. The Bible defines that self-examination as a personal recognition of the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the Sacrament, and a repentant acknowledgment of my own sinfulness recognizing my absolute dependence upon Christ as the only source of forgiveness for my sin. Scripture further instructs that our participation in Christ's Body and Blood together is the most profound and powerful way for Christians to acknowledge their unity in the faith. That is to say, when we share in the Body and Blood of Jesus at this altar, we are thereby indicating our common commitment to all of the doctrines of God's Word as they are taught in this congregation. Because of these Biblical convictions, we respectfully request that visitors, who wish to join us in receiving the Body and Blood of Christ and thereby identify with our confession of Bible truth, speak with one of our pastors before attending the Lord's Supper. Thank you for your kindness.)*

# *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Text: Charles Wesley; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn – “Mendelssohn”; LSB #380 © 2006 CPH



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!



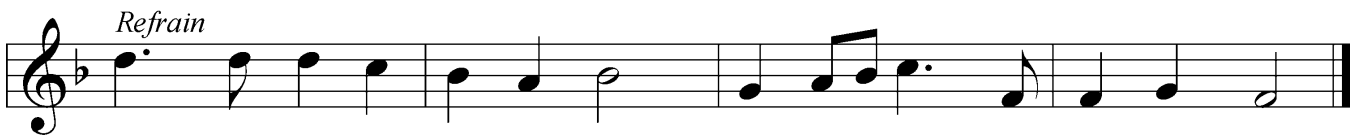
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



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.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King!”

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*Ministry of Music*

Thoelke Family



## *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens; Tune: Plainsong, 13<sup>th</sup> cent., mode V – “Divinum Mysterium”; LSB #384 © 2006 CPH



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.

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(Stand)

## *Canticle*

### *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Text: Martin Luther; Tune: "Vom Himmel Hoch"

1. "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good news to  
2. Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to us His

4  
ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring, Where-  
Son hath giv'n! While an - gels sing with pi - ous mirth A

7  
of glad I now will say and sing:  
glad new year to all the earth.



## *Benediction*

**P** May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**C** *Amen.*



# *Closing Hymn*

## *Joy to the World*

Text: Isaac Watts; Tune: George Frideric Handel – “Antioch”; LSB #387 © 2006 CPH



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  
ploy, 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.

## *Postlude*

### *Vom Himmel Hoch*

#### Acknowledgments:

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# *Soli Deo Gloria!*

*On behalf of the staff of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School we wish you and yours a truly Blessed Christmas. May the Peace and the Joy of Bethlehem's Manger fill your hearts and your homes all the year to come.*

*A special word of welcome this Christmas Day to our guests and visitors. We are honored by your presence and we hope that you have been blessed by celebrating Christ's birth with our congregation. We would be delighted to have you become a part of this gathering of believers on a regular basis so that together we may praise and serve our God together. Please come again soon.*

*Our thanks to the many people who have given their time and talent to make these holiday services the special events that they are. We wish to thank our musicians this morning. We are grateful to the members of the Altar Guild for the beautiful decorations which adorn our sanctuary on this Holy Day. Get your Poinsettia Dedication Book from an usher in the narthex. To God be the Glory as His people serve Him in Joy and Love!*



Worship with us again

*New Year's Eve*

Sunday, December 31, at 9:30 AM & 6:00 PM

*New Year's Day*

Monday, January 1, at 9:30 AM

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**

5000 W. Tidwell, Houston TX 77091 • 713-290-9087 • [www.OSL.cc](http://www.OSL.cc)