

Christmas Day

December 25, 2025

9:00 AM

Welcome to Our Guests

Thank you for joining us in worshiping the Savior at Zion this day. We pray that your time here serves to build your faith and equip you for the week ahead. Please come again.

If you desire to find out more about becoming part of the Zion family, please contact Vickie Adams, vadams@zionharvester.org, in the church office. Our family loves to grow and we'd love to have you join us!

Welcome Center

The Welcome Center is a place for the Zion family and its guests to gather for fellowship with each other and where information about Zion is readily accessible. Every weekend opportunities to connect are highlighted and publications and ministry brochures are made available. Please visit the Welcome Center before or after worship to greet one another and to stay connected to God's mission through Zion.

Children's Messages

Since children become members of the Christian Church through baptism, we desire to nurture their faith by engaging them in God's story of faith and in our corporate worship of Jesus. Resources to "build a worship bag" can be found just outside the Sanctuary doors. Please find items that will help engage your child in worship and return these after the service.

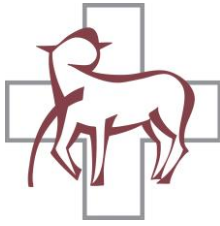
Children's Messages are designed for children between the ages of two through elementary school; however, all children are welcome. A team of members and staff who are gifted for this ministry invite you to accompany and assist your young child and join the children in the chancel.

Nursery and Cry Room

During all Worship Services, a Cry Room is available in the back of church for you to calm your child or change a diaper. During the Education Hour on Sundays, childcare for infants and toddlers is offered in the Nursery located on the lower level opposite the Fellowship Hall.

Worship Decorum

Please silence your cell phones during Worship Services.



DIVINE SERVICE

Setting Three, LSB p. 184

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten – arr. Mark Hayes

Ringing of the Bell

Processional

Please stand and face the procession.

Processional Hymn: 376 - Once in Royal David's City

sts. 1–2, 4

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

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.

Confessions of Sins

P Listen to the words of Isaiah, "Prepare the highway for My people to return." On this Christmas Day, we prepare our hearts for Jesus by humbly confessing our sins to Him.

C **We rejoice, heavenly Father, in the gift of Your Son, Jesus, our Savior. Yet, even on this day of joy, we cannot escape the truth that it was because of our sin that You had to send Your Son to our broken and sinful world, to suffer and die in our place on the cross. Without Your faithful love we would be lost forever, because we have done things we should not have done, and have failed to do things we should have done. Forgive us, not because we deserve this, but because Jesus was born for our salvation and died in our place. Amen.**

Absolution

P Look, your Savior has come! You are not deserted, nor are you forsaken. Your God has sought you out. He has found you and redeemed you. With His blood He has bought you back from darkness and has made you His own. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Kyrie: Lord Have Mercy

Mark 10:47



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis: Glory to God on High

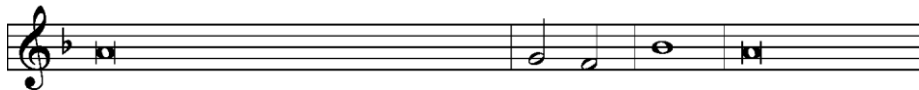
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



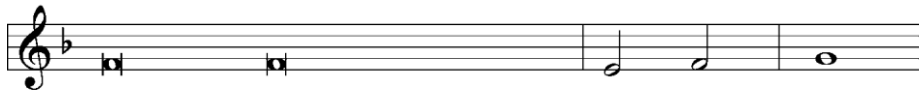
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Greeting

2 Timothy 4:22

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

Prayer of the Day

- 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

The Lord's Coming Salvation

⁷How 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."

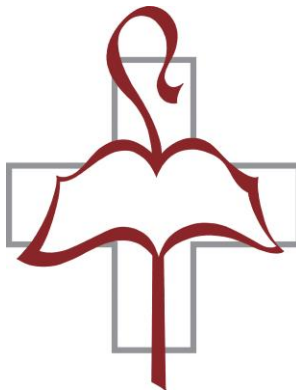
⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

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

¹⁰The 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

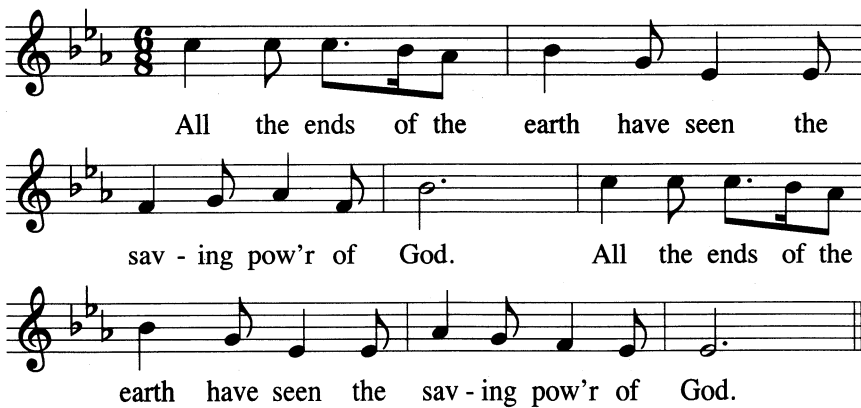
C Thanks be to God.



Psalm of the Day: All the Ends of the Earth

Psalm 98, paraphrase

Refrain



All the ends of the earth have seen the
sav - ing pow'r of God. All the ends of the
earth have seen the sav - ing pow'r of God.

A Refrain

C Refrain

A Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wondrous deeds,
His right hand has won victory for Him, His holy arm.

C Refrain

A The Lord has made His salvation known, His justice revealed to the nations,
remembering kindness and faithfulness toward Israel.

C Refrain

A All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.
Sing joyfully to the Lord all you lands, break into song, sing praise.

C Refrain

A Sing praise to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and melodious song,
with trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully to our King.

C Refrain

Tune and text: Lynn Trapp, © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.

The Supremacy of God's Son

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For 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”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia



Holy Gospel

John 1:1–18

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



The Word Became Flesh

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

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

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

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No 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.



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.

Hymn of the Day: 384 - Of the Father's Love Begotten

sts. 1–2

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,
 gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - 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 -
 have deem - been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

Children's Message

Children may come forward as soon as the leader appears in the chancel. If you have a young child that needs assistance, please accompany your child and join the children in the chancel.



Hymn of the Day: 384 - Of the Father's Love Begotten

sts. 3–5

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
 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
 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-
 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. A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

Sermon

Stand

Offertory: Create in Me

Psalms 51:10–12

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Sit

Offering

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly – arr. John Leavitt

Members and guests, please use this time to fill out an Attendance Card, located in the pew racks. At the end of the offering, the ushers will collect all Attendance Cards.

To prepare for communion, please see LSB p. 329, "Christian Questions with Their Answers." Additional communion notes are in the back of this bulletin.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, all praise to You for the great gift of salvation in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Because He took on our flesh, all mankind takes on the divine hope of eternal life. Receive our heartfelt thanks and praise. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** As Your Son took on our human flesh for our salvation, so may our Lord live in us, His people, that He may extend the touch of His salvation to all people in our world today. Bless Your Church to be the hearts and hands and voices of Your grace to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** May all people over the whole world hear the Good News of Your love and salvation in Christ, and, hearing, be brought to faith and delivered from their sin. Cause Your Gospel to be preached and confessed with power and boldness everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** On this Christmas Day, hear our prayers for all who are alone, those who are sick or injured, and those suffering in body, mind, or spirit. Give health and healing and strength to all who look to You for help. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** May the body and blood of Your Son give life to our flesh as He lives in us by His own mighty power. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

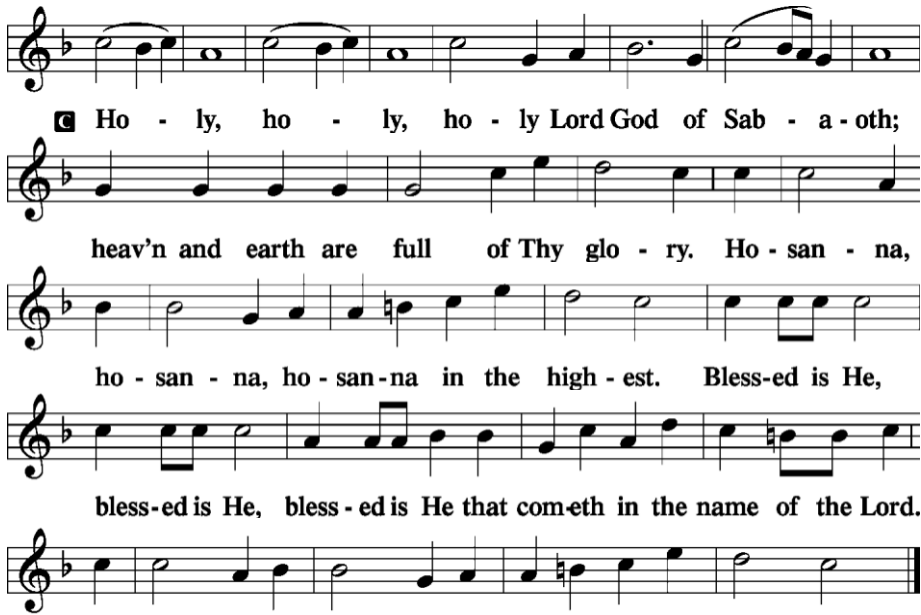
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

- P** 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:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

- 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 Institution

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

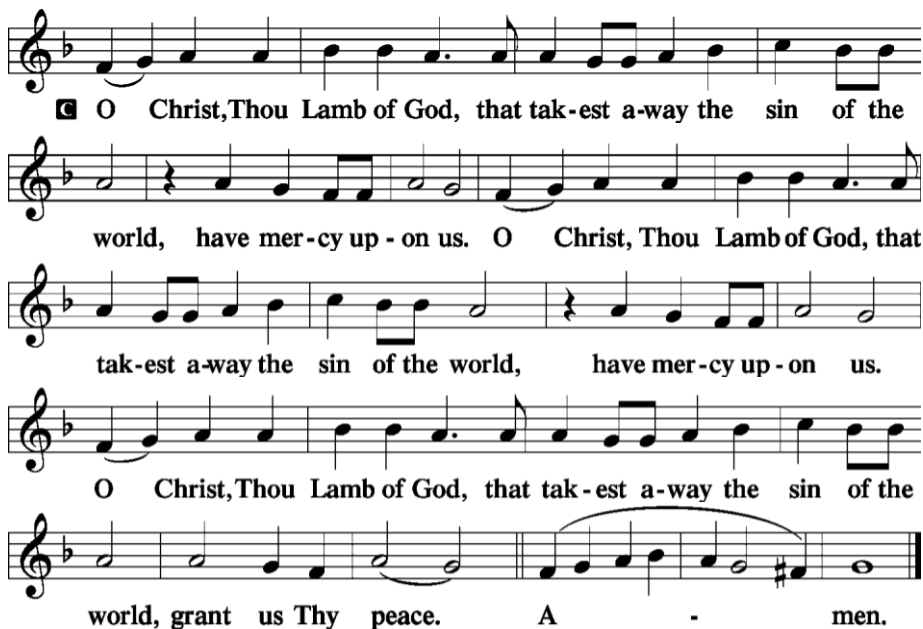
Peace

John 20:19

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

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God

John 1:29



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution Notes

Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the individual tray for those who have medical reasons for not receiving wine. Gluten-free wafers are available at the Baptismal font.

Distribution Hymn: 374 - Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald

Anthem

What Child Is This – arr. Sally DeFord

Distribution Hymn: 393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.

Text and tune: Polish

Stand

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.



Nunc Dimittis: Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29–32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.


Nunc Dimittis
SONG OF SIMEON

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C And his mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Prayer

- P** We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, that you have entered our humanity with the infant presence of Christ Himself in body and blood, bread and wine. Send us forth from this Nativity celebration, strengthened to serve, and encouraged in faith, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

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

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

- P** Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

Closing Hymn: 362 - O Sing of Christ



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, © 1996 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.

Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Postlude

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child – arr. Donald Rotermund

Acknowledgments

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Communion Statement

The Lord's supper is celebrated at Zion in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sin (Matt. 26:26, 28; 1 Cor. 11:23-24). In joyful obedience to the clear teaching of our Lord Jesus, those are invited to His table who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. Because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod are unable to receive the Sacrament and are invited to meditate on God's Word in the distribution hymns. Those who have questions or concerns are invited to speak with one of the pastors.

The Participants

Preacher: Rev. Mike Fiebertorn

Liturgist: Rev. Mark Rouland

Children's Message: Angie Steinbacher

Organist: Karen Roche

Soloists: Abby Farnsworth, Rebekah Gierstorf

Acolytes: Joel Farnsworth, Logan Fiebertorn

Elder: Ken Trimble

Ushers: Jim Koeneman Team