

# THE VIGIL OF THE HOLY NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Sunday 24 December A†D 2023



## OUR SAVIOR

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—Missouri Synod

4000 Wallings Road † North Royalton, Ohio 44133  
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Rev. Jonathan C. McCall, Pastor

† Hymns †

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375

364

360

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Wooden kneeling stools are available to all for use during the Preparation, Consecration, and Benediction. If you would like one, please take it from underneath the last row of chairs on the pulpit side of the nave before service. You may tuck it under the pew in front of you while not in use and may leave it there after the service.

### This morning we will celebrate Holy Communion

Visitors who have not before received communion from Pastor McCall are kindly asked to speak with him before Divine Service begins and before approaching the altar for the first time. Because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar and because those who eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood unworthily do so to their great harm, it is very important to speak with pastor before service if you desire the Blessed Sacrament. Also, those who receive the Lord's Supper at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical Lutheran faith. For these reasons, *only members of this congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* receive Holy Communion at this altar. If you have any questions regarding the doctrine and practice of Closed Communion, please talk to the pastor before or after the Divine Service.

**NOTE:** *During Advent, numerous portions of the liturgical responses are spoken, not chanted as usual, as we fast in this way in preparation for our coming Lord. If a response is lacking its usual musical notation in the bulletin, that means it is spoken. (e.g. The Salutation, Collect, Preface.) The Gloria in Excelsis goes away until we sing it again with the angels on Christmas morning.*

## † THE DIVINE SERVICE †

10:30am

### THE PRELUDE

*The bell tolls three times to signify the beginning of service in reverence of the Holy Trinity. After the tolls, the Processional Hymn will begin.*

*Please STAND and face the Procession (beginning at the rear of the nave).*

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*O Lord, We Welcome Thee*

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

1 O Lord, we wel-come Thee, Our hearts for joy are leap - ing.  
 2 The might - y Son of God, His maj - es - ty con - ceal - ing,  
 3 Ah, sweet and gen - tle name! Its ech - oes far are sound - ing,  
 4 To Thee a - lone we cling, For Thee all else for - sak - ing;

Thou, Je - sus, dear - est Child, Thy pre - cious prom - ise keep - ing,  
 Dwells with our fall - en race To give us balm and heal - ing.  
 It pierc - es hearts of stone And tells of love a - bound - ing.  
 On Thee a - lone we build Tho' heav'n and earth be quak - ing.

Art come from heav'n to earth To be our Broth - er dear;  
 The ev - er - last - ing God De - scends from realms a - bove,  
 O Je - sus, dear - est Child, On Thee will we re - ly,  
 To Thee a - lone we live, In Thee a - lone we die;

Thou, gra - cious Son of God, Wilt ban - ish all our fear.  
 Be - comes a win - some Child, Re - veals His Fa - ther's love.  
 And, call - ing on Thy name, We die not when we die.  
 O Je - sus, dear - est Lord, With Thee we reign on high.

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

ST. MATTHEW 28:19B; [18:20]

**Amen.**

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.

[HEBREWS 10:22]

*KNEEL IF YOU DESIRE AND ARE ABLE*

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

PSALM 124:8

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD,  
**and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

PSALM 32:5

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination. The pastor will resume...*

**O almighty God, merciful Father, 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.**

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.

**Amen.**

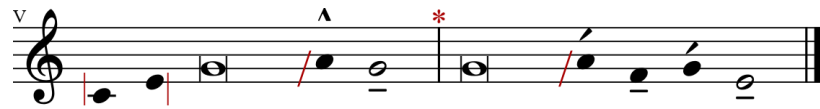
[ST. JOHN 20:19-23]

*STAND*

# ✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

## THE INTROIT

PSALM 2:6-7; 24:1, 3-5



| Yet have | I / set my king  
upon my holy / hill of Zion.

**The LORD hath said unto / mē,  
Thou art my Son; this day have / I begotten thee.**

The earth is the LORD's, and the ful- / ness thereof;  
The world, and / they that dwell therein.

**Who shall ascend into the hill of the / LÔRD?  
Or who shall / stand in his holy place?**

He that hath clean hands, and a pure / heârt;  
Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity,  
Nor / sworn deceitfully.

**He shall receive the blessing from the / LÔRD,  
And righteousness from the God of / his salvation.**

***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 for- / ever. Amen.**

| Yet have | I / set my king  
upon my holy / hill of Zion.

**I will declare the decree: The LORD hath said unto / mē,  
Thou art my Son; this day have / I begotten thee.**

## THE KYRIE

ST. MARK 10:47



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



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

## THE SALUTATION

2 TIMOTHY 4:22

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*SIT*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 62:1-4A

*Thus says the LORD God:* For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name. You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD delights in you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE MOTET

*(sung by the children's choir)*

## Angel Song

*Before the Marvel of this Night*  
JAROSLAV J. VAJDA AND CARL SCHALK  
©1981

1. Before the marvel of this night  
Adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
Then tear the sky apart with light  
And with your news the world endow  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,  
That fear and death and sorrow cease:  
Sing peace, sing peace, sing Gift of peace,  
Sing peace, sing Gift of peace!
2. Awake the sleeping world with song,  
This is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng,  
In royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss,  
A teasing tasted of what they miss:  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,  
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!
3. The love that we have always known,  
Our constant joy and endless light,  
Now to the loveless world be shown,  
Now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love  
That rules our universe above:  
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love,  
Sing love, sing God is love!



## THE EPISTLE

ROMANS 1:1-6

*Brethren:* Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*STAND*

## THE GRADUAL AND THE ALLELUIA VERSE

PSALM 98:3B-4A, 2; 2:7



Alle- / luia!

- / Alleluia!

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation  
of our / Gôd.**

**Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, / all the earth.—**

The LORD hath made known his sal- / vation:

His righteousness hath he openly shewed

in the / sight of the heathen.

**The LORD hath said unto / mê,**

**Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten  
thee. / Alleluia!**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

ST. MATTHEW 1:18B-21

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

✠ *At that time:* After Mary the mother of Jesus was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**THE NICENE CREED**

**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*

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY 375** *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

**THE SERMON**

*STAND*

**THE OFFERTORY**

PSALM 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.

*SIT*

## THE OFFERING

*We All Believe in One True God*

*STAND*

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4]

*- please read the announcements and prayer list details on bulletin insert*

*After each bid: Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*At the conclusion: O Lord, ... one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**



bles - ed is He, bles - 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.

*KNEEL IF YOU DESIRE AND ARE ABLE*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

ST. MATTHEW 6:9-13

**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 CHRIST'S TESTAMENT** ST. MATTHEW 26:26-28;  
ST. MARK 14:22-24; ST. LUKE 22:19-20; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-25

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.

## THE SERVICE OF

## ✠ THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR ✠

### THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

2 TIMOTHY 4:22

**And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

[COLOSSIANS 3:1]

**We lift them up unto the LORD.**

Let us give thanks unto the LORD our God.

[PSALM 136]

**It is meet and right so to do.**

It is truly meet, right, and salutary... praising You and saying:

### THE SANCTUS

ISAIAH 6:3; ST. MATTHEW 21:9



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,

## THE PAX DOMINI

ST. JOHN 20:19

The ☩ peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## THE AGNUS DEI

ST. JOHN 1:29

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.

*SIT*

## THE COMMUNION HYMNS

364 *Away in a Manger*

360 *All My Heart Again Rejoices*

357 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*STAND*

## THE NUNC DIMITTIS

ST. 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.

## THE THANKSGIVING

PSALM 107:1

Oh, give thanks unto the LORD for He is good.

**And His mercy endureth forever.**

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift; and we beseech 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.

**Amen.**

## THE SALUTATION

2 TIMOTHY 4:22

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

## THE BENEDICAMUS

[PSALM 103:1]

Bless we the LORD.

**Thanks be to God.**

*KNEEL IF YOU DESIRE AND ARE ABLE*

## THE BENEDICTION

NUMBERS 6:24–26

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.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

*STAND*

## THE RETIRING PROCESSION WITH POSTLUDE

*Please face the Procession as it passes your pew.*

*Once the Retiring Procession reaches the narthex, depart in ☩ peace.*



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