



“Prepared for Heaven!”

Sunday, December 26, 2021 at 8:00 am & 11:00 am

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

AS WE GATHER

Are you prepared for heaven? Admittedly, this is an odd question when we are celebrating Jesus' birth. Yet, Jesus was born to die to save His people from their sins. As Simeon held the Christ Child, he couldn't help but say, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word," while also telling Mary, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed." That opposition eventually brought about His death on a cross. Yet, Jesus was born to die and rise to life again so that all who believe in Him might live! That is the best Christmas gift ever.

WE WELCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Epiphany Lutheran Church offers many resources and programs to help you and your children grow in your faith relationship with Jesus Christ. Quiet activity bags for your little ones are available on the coat tree outside the sanctuary doors. Our nursery has staffed personnel every Sunday from 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM. The nursery is not staffed on Saturday night, but still available for your use. Well children, ages infant to four (4) years, are welcome. Each Sunday morning worship service has a special children's message, and we offer Sunday school, except for holidays, for ages 3-adult at 9:30 am. If you need assistance, please ask an usher or elder to direct you to the bathrooms, nursery, or classrooms.

Please stand for portions of service marked with asterisk ().*

THE PRELUDE

Nathan Eickmann, Accompanist

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE WELCOME AND SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor Arthur Schudde

***OPENING HYMN**

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386



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!

Text and tune: Public domain

+ PREPARATION +

***INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and \times of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

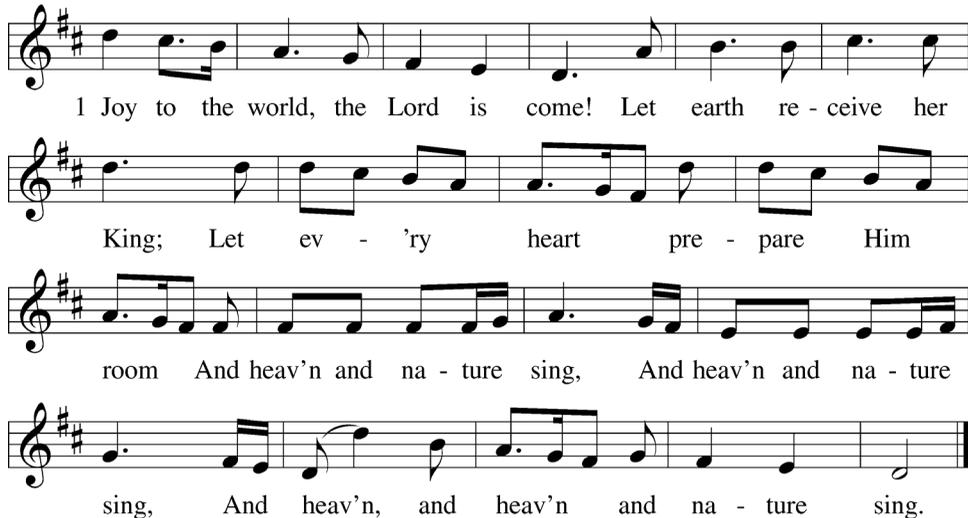
Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You give us through Jesus. Help us to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Your Son. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.

Pastor: Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As an ordained servant of our newborn King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

***INTROIT** *Psalm 98:1-4; Isaiah 52:10*

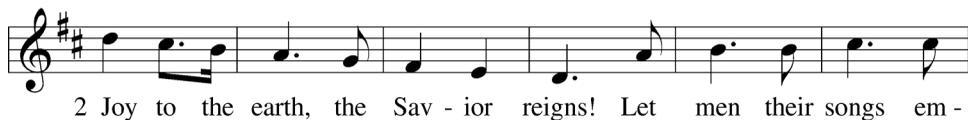


1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her
King; Let ev-'ry heart pre-pare Him
room And heav'n and na-ture sing, And heav'n and na-ture
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing.

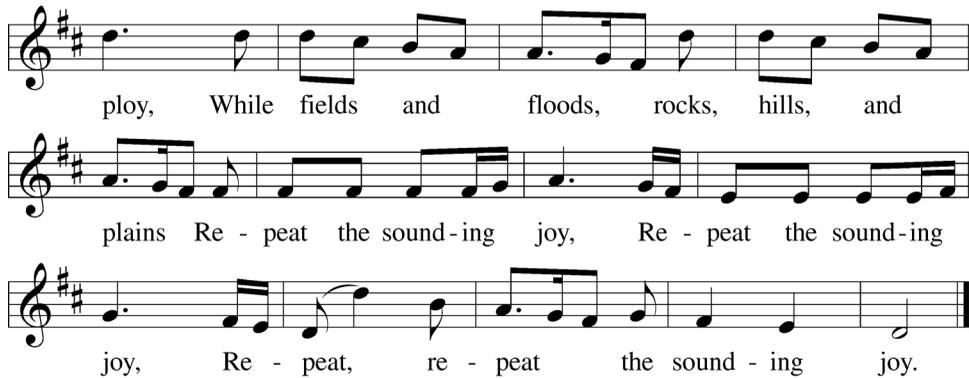
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Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.



2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let men their songs em-



ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 plains Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

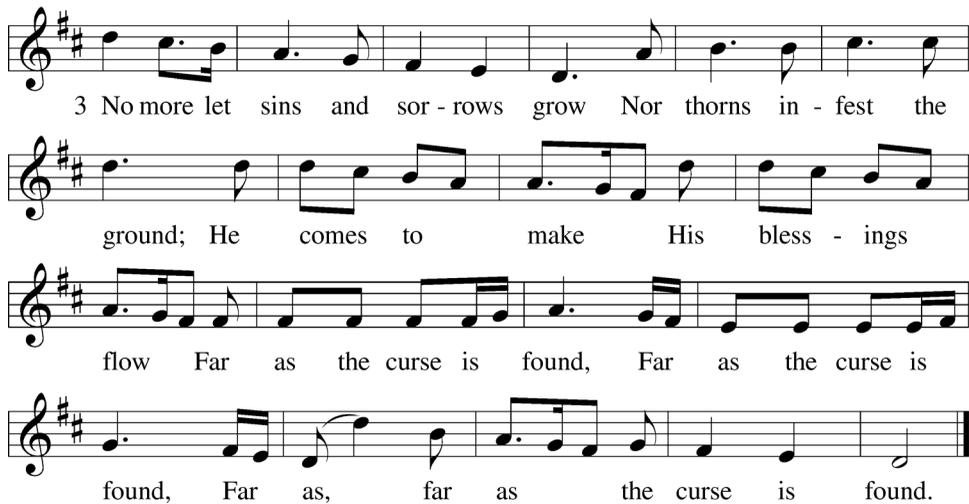
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Pastor: The LORD has made known His salvation;

People: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

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



4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
People: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

***SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, our Savior, we praise and thank You for coming to be born of Mary so that through faith in You we might depart this life in peace. Grant that we may ever share this gift; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

+ **WORD** +

OLD TESTAMENT *Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15* (Pew Bible pg.)
(Law regarding the redemption of the firstborn)

The Lord said to Moses, "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. . . .

“When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord’s. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Colossians 3:12-17

(Pew Bible pg.)

(“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.”)

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***VERSE**

Luke 2:30–32

Pastor: Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation;

**People: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.
Alleluia.**

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 2:22-40

(Pew Bible pg.)

(Jesus presented in the Temple)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Pastor: When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

People: (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”)

Pastor: and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord,

People: “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

Pastor: Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

Men: “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.”

Pastor: And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother,

Men: “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Women: And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Pastor: And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCE Kristin Schmidt

SERMON HYMN

"Jesus Knows Me"

Tune: *"Jesus Loves Me"*

*Jesus knows me! This I love,
Came to earth from heaven above.
Stable's manger, for a bed,
There God laid His infant head.
Yes, I love Jesus.
Yes, I love Jesus.
Yes. I love Jesus.
My heart tells me it's so.*

*Sheep and shepherds, fields and skies,
Angels' songs, and mortal sighs,
God with us, this is the sign:
Swaddled Baby, Savior mine.
Yes, I love Jesus.
Yes, I love Jesus.
Yes, I love Jesus.
My heart tells me it's so.*

*Traveling star, and gifts to pack,
Wise men looking up, not back,
Gentiles all, their hopes they bring
Worship now the newborn King.
Yes, I love Jesus.
Yes, I love Jesus.
Yes. I love Jesus.
My heart tells me it's so.*

SERMON

"A Look back at the Manger"

Pastor Arthur Schudde

Luke 2:11-16

- i. Away WITH the manger
- ii. Away IN the manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Tune and text: Public domain

*CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Christmas Creed

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love; to live under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.

OFFERING

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.epiphanylc.org and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.



If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY](#)

Members, Visitors, Friends, and Relatives: Please take a moment to note your attendance with us today on the appropriate sheet in the attendance folders at the ends of each row. This not only helps us to know who is worshipping here with us, but also we can let you know of up coming activities here at Epiphany.

Folders will be collected by ushers at the end of the service.

+SACRAMENT+

***PREFACE ~** (Tune: “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”)

Pastor: May the good Lord be with you. Lift your hearts to God in praise.

People: *May the Lord be with you too
To the Lord our hearts we raise.
Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis d-eo!
Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis d-eo!*

*In the world of God made flesh
Great and wondrous mystery
Now we see with vision fresh
God’s abundant majesty
Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis d-eo!
Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis d-eo!*

*Therefore with the church on earth
And the host of heav’n above
Let us praise His name, whose birth
Brings to us eternal love.
Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis d-eo!
Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis d-eo!*

***PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, Almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of Your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and You sent forth Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your Name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS** ~ (Tune: "As With Gladness Men of Old")

***Holy, Holy, holy Lord God of hosts, by all adored;
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of Your name!
With the heav'nly host we sing Highest praises to our King:
Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame Be to Him who, in God's name,
Now draws nigh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hail! Hosanna! Praises be To the Lord eternally!***

***WORDS OF OUR LORD** (Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25)

Pastor: 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."

***PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** 1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

***LORD'S PRAYER ~ (Tune: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear")**

***Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,
Most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
On earth – in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be; into temptation do not lead,
From evil set us free.***

***Yours is the kingdom; unto You in grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view
Your might presence now.
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung
By angel hosts and men
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
Forevermore! Amen.***

***THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION
<p>The Lord's Supper, also known as Holy Communion or the Eucharist, is celebrated at Epiphany Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord Jesus Christ gives us His very body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins, and to strengthen our unity with Christ and our Christian brothers and sisters. Our Lord invites to His table those baptized Christians who trust His Word, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive others as He loves and forgives us. Scripture urges us to examine our conscience and belief about Holy Communion before we partake of the Supper (1 Cor. 11:28). Because those who partake of the Lord's Supper unworthily do so to their great harm, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an Elder. For further study, see Matthew 26:26-29; 5:23-26; 18:15-35; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:17-34.</p> <p>Children and uninstructed youth and adults may receive a blessing by crossing their arms over their chest, which is known as the sign of St. Andrew's cross.</p>

White grape juice and gluten free Communion wafers are available for those with alcohol sensitivity or gluten intolerance. The chalice (“common cup”) is served after the trays of individual Communion cups.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“Birthday of a King”

*In the little village of Bethlehem,
There lay a Child one day,
And the sky was bright with a holy light
O'er the place where Jesus lay.*

Refrain:

*Alleluia! O how the angels sang.
Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light,
'Twas the birthday of a King.*

*'Twas a humble birth-place, but O how much
God gave to us that day,
From the manger bed what a path has led,
What a perfect, holy way. [Refrain]*

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

LSB 374



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!

Tune and text: Public domain

“What Child Is This”

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

***THE THANKSGIVING ~ (Tune: “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”)**

***Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise
 what He has done proclaim!
 Let all who seek the Lord rejoice***

*and proudly bear His name
Who leads His thankful people forth
His promises to claim
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!*

*Lord, let Your servant go in peace.
Your word has been fulfilled
My eyes have seen the saving work
which for the world you willed:
The glory of your chosen race as light for all revealed
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!*

*Oh, praise to God the Father, and praise to God the Son
And praise to God the Spirit, most blessed three in one
As 'twas, is now and e'er shall be
while endless ages run!
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!*

***THE CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Prince of Peace, You bless us with the peace of Your divine presence in this Meal of bread and wine, granting us the forgiveness of all our sins. We thank You for preparing us to enter Your heavenly gates as You meet us in this banquet of Your body and blood, which You have prepared to guide us on our journey to Your kingdom, which has no end; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

***THE BENEDICTION ~ (Tune: "Angles We Have Heard on High")**

Pastor: *May the good Lord bless and keep,
Cause His face on you to shine.
Look on you with favor deep
Granting you His peace divine.*

People: ***Glo---ria in excelsis deo! Glo---ria in excelsis deo!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** *“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”* LSB 358 vv. 1-2, 15



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav’n, Who un - to



news to ev - ’ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
us His Son has giv’n! While an - gels sing with



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
pi - ous mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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