

Christmas Day
December 25th, 2018



“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.”

John 1:14

WELCOME! We extend a cordial welcome to everyone in the name of our crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Visitors are always welcome in our midst and are asked to sign our guest book in the entrance to our church sanctuary.

AS WE GATHER— *“Stir Up the Power of Promises Kept”*

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). The birth of Jesus is a day of promise fulfilled. In Jesus’ name, which means “God saves,” we are given confidence to live faithfully because our salvation comes not from ourselves but is the gift of God in Christ. Jesus’ birth gives us confidence to live by faith, because it shows us how God kept the promise to send a Savior; God keeps His promises. Jesus’ title, Immanuel, also gives us confidence to live by faith, because it means “God with us.” Jesus has promised to be with us to the end of the age.

ORDER OF SERVICE: *(as printed in your bulletin)*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN—“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (LSB 367)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Worship Christ the newborn King! His name is Jesus.

People: He comes to save us from our sins.

Pastor: His title is Immanuel.

People: He is God with us.

Pastor: Today we rejoice!

People: For God has kept His precious promise to us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Amid our Christmas joy, let us confess our sins.

People: Mighty God, on this day of celebration, we confess our sin to You. We are by nature sinful. Without Your help, we are powerless to overcome it. We confess our impatience with You and with others, our seeking after worldly passions, and our self-indulgent ways of life. By our sin, we have hurt others, ourselves, and You. We plead with You to forgive our sins for the sake of Christ and to transform our broken lives.

Pastor: In Jesus, God kept His promise to save us from our sins. In Jesus, God is present with us even to the end of the age. 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.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE— *(Please greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.)* [Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3]

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT—*Psalm 93:1–2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2*

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness

People: have seen a great light;

Pastor: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

People: on them has light shined.

Pastor: The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty;

People: the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.

Pastor: Yes, the world is established;

People: it shall never be moved.

Pastor: Your throne is established from of old;

People: You are from everlasting.

Pastor: Your decrees are very trustworthy;

People: holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.

ALL: 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.

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness

People: have seen a great light;

Pastor: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

People: on them has light shined.

HYMN OF PRAISE—"A Great and Mighty Wonder" (LSB 383)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, after Adam and Eve fell into sin,

People: You promised to send a Savior.

Pastor: You wove this promise like a thread

People: throughout the history of Your people Israel.

Pastor: Now, in the birth of Jesus,

People: Your promise is fulfilled.

Pastor: By Your mercy and goodness,

**People: let this promise fulfilled guide our words and actions through
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING—*Jeremiah 33:14–16* (God’s promise
will be fulfilled in a “righteous branch.”)

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL—*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

Pastor: To us a child is born,

People: to us a son is given;

Pastor: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

People: And His name shall be called

Pastor: Wonderful Counselor,

People: Mighty God,

Pastor: Everlasting Father,

People: Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: for He has done marvelous things!

EPISTLE—*2 Peter 1:1–7* (That through God’s precious promises, we
will become partakers of His divine nature.)

¹Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE—*John 1:14*

Pastor: Alleluia!

People: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

Pastor: and we have seen His glory,

People: glory as of the only Son from the Father,

Pastor: full of grace and truth.

People: Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18–25* (God's promise fulfilled)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED—Nicene Creed (*as found on the very back page of your bulletin*)

HYMN OF THE DAY—“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (LSB 384)

SERMON— “Stir Up the Power of Promises Kept” (Matthew 1:18–25)

OFFERTORY HYMN—“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LSB 361)

OFFERINGS/ATTENDANCE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Each petition of the prayers ends by the pastor saying: “Lord, in Your mercy” and the congregation responding: “Hear our prayer”*

Pastor: All powerful God, You stirred up the power of Your love in sending Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be born into this broken world. We bring our prayers to You on this Christmas Day, trusting that You hear our cries for the Church, the world, and all people in need.

Stir up the power of Your Church, O Lord. Guide the leaders of our church to plan and do things boldly that bring glory to You. Lead our pastors, teachers, and all church workers to tell of Your promises kept. Shape the lives of all the people of the Church to be a servant people in the world. Embolden missionaries to proclaim Jesus with great joy.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: Stir up the power of Your peace, O Lord. Guide the leaders of nations to strive for peace among and within nations. Lead our state and local officials to carry out their duties uprightly and for the good of all. Heal those whose lives have been shattered by warfare, violence, or persecution. Stabilize those whose lives seem to be in constant turmoil.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: Stir up the power of Your presence, O Lord. Heal those who are sick—the hospitalized and those facing surgery—according to Your will. Accompany the dying with a heaping measure of Your mercy. Comfort those who mourn the death of a loved one, and fill them with hope. Provide for the poor, the forgotten, the neglected, and use us as Your instruments to do so.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: Stir up the power of Your joy, O Lord. Lift up those whose spirits lag during this season. Renew those whose faith is faltering and bring them closer to You. Bless those who are celebrating with family and friends during this season. Give us all a great measure of the joy that comes from knowing and worshipping Jesus.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: Stir up the power of Your promises kept, O Lord. Protect and strengthen marriages and family commitments. Bless those committed to the care of our community—doctors, firefighters, police, and social workers. Help us to make our actions consistent with our words. Spur us on to live each day faithfully committed to following Jesus.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: Stir up the power of Your gift of life, O Lord. Thank You for those who have gone before us, having faithfully clung to Your promises. Lead us all to rely on Your promises every moment of our lives. Bring us one day with Your saints into Your eternal kingdom.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: We entrust our prayers to Your never-failing mercy to us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. (*2 Timothy 4:22*)

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. (*Colossians 3:1*)

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (*Psalms 136*)

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly our joy and delight, our purpose and our duty, to rejoice in the wonder of this day, in the mystery of the Word made flesh, and in the promise of glory that sin and death cannot overcome. Give us this glory now and always, that we may rejoice in what the Word made flesh has accomplished and enjoy the riches of His mercy in the salvation of our souls. Now, with all the host of heaven and with the faithful throughout the earth, with angels and archangels to lead our praises, let us evermore rejoice in singing Your praise:

SANCTUS

(LSB pg. 208)

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In the beginning, You created all things by Your Word. In the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *(Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 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

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and 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 *(as found on the very back page of your bulletin) (Matthew 6:9–13)*

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(LSB pg. 210)

People: **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

COMMUNION STATEMENT— *(Please read before taking the Sacrament)*

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and 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 this congregation and The Lutheran Synod–Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

-“God Loves Me Dearly”

(LSB 392)

-“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

(LSB 393)

NUNC DIMITTIS

(LSB pg. 211)

People: **O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,**

**All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. What we have received in our ears and upon our lips,
O Lord, keep within us in faithful hearts, that the joy of Christ's birth
may sustain us through the journey of this mortal life and His gifts
equip us through forgiveness for the everlasting life that is to come;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION--*John 1:14*

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

**People: and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the
Father, full of grace and truth.**

Pastor: 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.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN—"Joy to the World" (LSB 387)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!

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