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Opening Hymn “*The Tree of Life*”

LSB 561

Stand- Confession and Absolution

LSB page 203

Responsive Introit

P The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. (Genesis 2:8)

C **We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.**

P Out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. (Genesis 2:9a)

C **We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.**

P The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2:9b)

C **We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.**

P The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:17)

C **We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.**

P But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5)

C **We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.**

P She took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:6)

C **We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.**

P Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” (Galatians 3:13)

C **We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.**

P Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb and on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. (*Revelation 22:1-2*)

C **And He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new. Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”** (Revelation 21:5)

READINGS for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (See insert.)

SERMON HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” **LSB 357:1, 4**

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (*as found in the very back page of your hymnal*)

SERMON –

PRAYER FOR RECEPTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

ALL: O Lord, our God, by Your mercy in the waters of Holy Baptism You have granted us Your gracious washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior; make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith, that clothed with His righteousness, we may live a new life that gives thanks and praise to You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Service of the Sacrament *LSB Pages 208-212*

Distribution Hymns “What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”
“Once He Came in Blessing”

LSB 342

LSB 333

Trim the Christmas Tree Service

JANUARY

Reading: Malachi 3:1-3

¹“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.

(Those with birthdays in January come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “Prepare the Royal Highway” **LSB 343, vs. 1, 4**

FEBRUARY

Luke 1:5-10

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. ⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

(Those with birthdays in February come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “Hark A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” **LSB 345, vs. 1-3**

MARCH

Reading: Luke 1:11-17

¹¹ And there appeared to [Zechariah] an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

(Those with birthdays in March come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” LSB 344, vs. 1-2

APRIL

Reading: Luke 1:18-25

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

(Those with birthdays in April come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” LSB 334, vs. 1, 3-6

MAY

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

(Those with birthdays in May come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN "Hark the Glad Sound" LSB 349

JUNE

Reading: Luke 1:34-38

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

(Those with birthdays in June come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" LSB 359, vs. 1-3

JULY

Reading: Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

(Those with birthdays in July come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” LSB 352: 1-4

AUGUST

Reading: Luke 1:46-56

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with [Elizabeth] about three months and returned to her home.

(Those with birthdays in August come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “My Soul Rejoices” LSB 933

SEPTEMBER

Reading: Luke 1:57-66

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened, and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

(Those with birthdays in September come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” LSB 341:1-3

OCTOBER

Reading Luke 1:67-80

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” ⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

(Those with birthdays in October come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” LSB 347:1-3

NOVEMBER

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

(Those with birthdays in November come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357:5-7

DECEMBER

Reading: Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 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 shone. 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.

(Those with birthdays in December come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “What Child is This” **LSB 370**

IN HONOR OR REMEMBRANCE

Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸ Now 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. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All 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).

(Anyone wishing to put a decoration on the Christmas tree for other family members not present here today or in memory of those now with the Lord in heaven come forward as the hymn is sung)

HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory” **LSB 367:1, 5**

Offering – SONG “O Christmas Tree” Printed below

1. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree
Thy leaves are so unchanging!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy leaves are so unchanging!
Not only green when summer's here,
But also when it's cold and drear.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy leaves are so unchanging!

2. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Much pleasure doth thou bring me!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Much pleasure doth thou bring me!
How often has the Christmas tree
Afforded me the greatest glee.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Much pleasure doth thou bring me!

3. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy candles shine out brightly!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy candles shine out brightly!
From base to summit, gay and bright,
There's only splendor for the sight.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy candles shine out brightly!

4. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How richly God has decked thee!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How richly God has decked thee!
Thou bidst us true and faithful be,
And trust in God unchangingly!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How richly God has decked thee!

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”*)

COLLECT

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn “*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*”

LSB 515

Officiant: Pr. Brian Weber
Organist: Chris Cutts



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