

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Divine Service III LSB pages 184-202

L = Liturgist * = Stand C = Congregation

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN OF INVOCATION**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

1. **O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!**
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
2. **For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above**
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
3. **How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!**
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

***INVOCATION AND GENERAL CONFESSION**

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **♩ Amen.**

L: O Wisdom, proceeding from the Most High—

C: **I confess that I have not always lived a wise life. I have not followed Your teachings.**

L: O Lord, head of all the peoples of the world—

C: **My sin has separated me from You. Have mercy on me for Your sake, my Redeemer.**

L: O Branch of Jesse—

C: **I call to You for help, for I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**

L: O Key of David—

C: **I deserve to have heaven closed to me on account of all that I have done wrong. Open to me the gates of paradise, for Your holy life has exempted me from condemnation.**

L: O Morning Star, Sun of Righteousness—

C: **Forgive me for my dark misdeeds. Shine the light of Your love into the depths of my being.**

L: O Emmanuel—

C: **Come near to me and save me. Amen.**

***THE ABSOLUTION**

C: **♩ Amen.**

***THE GLORIA PATRI** (Taken from LSB, page 186)

C: **♩ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

***THE KYRIE**

C: **♩ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

***THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with thy spirit.

L: Let us pray.

C: ♪ Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING for the fourth Sunday in Advent is from Isaiah 7:10-17, page 572: (5, 8, 10:30)

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

10:30 Chancel Choir

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

THE EPISTLE READING is from Romans 1:1-7, page 939:

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

***ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

C: ♪ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL** - according to St. Matthew, the first chapter, verses 18-25, page 807:

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, 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, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Sung Creed – (Sung to “From Heaven Above”)

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| 1. With angel choirs we join to raise,
To God the Father highest praise,
By whose strong Word all things were made,
The wonders of His love displayed. | 2. By love God’s Son was sent to earth,
The child of wondrous virgin birth.
For sinners all, that life He gave,
And rose triumphant from the grave. |
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3. The Spirit of the Lord draws near,
To sanctify God's people dear.
Where Christ's forgiving pow'r is known,
The wonders of God's love are shown.

4. Most wonderful of all – believe,
That life eternal they receive
Who place in Jesus Christ their faith;
With Him they too shall conquer death.

THE SERMON

“The Wonder of Jesus”

(Matthew 11:4-5)

THE OFFERING - *During the offering all worshipers are asked to fill out the blue or ivory cards found in the pew rack. Please pass cards down to center aisle. They will be collected immediately after the offering.*

VOLUNTARY

***THE OFFERTORY** LSB page 192

✠ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

***LORD'S PRAYER** (Back inside cover of the hymnal.)

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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

C: ✠ Amen.

***THE AGNUS DEI** LSB page 198

✠ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High*

LSB 368

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

OTHER DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 353, 383, 357

NUNC DIMITTIS - Song of Simeon Luke 2:29-32 LSB page 199

✠ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

L: Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

C: ✠ And His mercy endureth forever.

L: Let us pray.

C: ✠ Amen.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: ✠ And with Thy Spirit.

L: Bless we the Lord.

C: **♪ Thanks be to God.**

*THE BENEDICTION

C: **♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

*THE CLOSING HYMN

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352

1. **Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

2. **What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.**

*SILENT PRAYER / POSTLUDE + + + + +

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY:

Preacher: Pastor Dennis A. Kastens

Liturgists: Pastor Jon C. Furgeson; Sem. Kyle Weeks

Organist: 5:00 & 9:20: Alice Kastens; 8:00 & 10:30: Burnell Hackman

Choir Director: Burnell Hackman, DMM

KFUO AM 850 Broadcaster/Engineer: Alan Hopfer/Jeanette Mattingly

NEWS AND NOTES:

THE 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2016

CHRIST'S TRUE BODY AND BLOOD, given and shed in His passion for the forgiveness of sins, are really present in, with, and under the bread and the wine in the Sacrament of the Altar and are given to and received by those who commune. Confirmed church members who are of one faith with us are invited to the Lord's table. Please register by marking the attendance card in the pew rack.

TODAY'S EDUCATION HOUR: 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Class (Lower Commons): Augsburg Confession

Bible Study for 18 - 25 Year Olds (Former Sanctuary Overflow Room):

Discussions led by group members with mentors present.

Women's Bible Class (Office Conf. Rm.): led by Janice McCreary

Youth Bible Class: led by Christina Stackle, DCE

8th Gr. Youth: Rick Goodman; 7th Gr. Youth: Greg Wirtel and Louise Oster

PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES

HEARING ASSIST TRANSMITTERS are available from the ushers. Ear pieces are available although we suggest you bring your own.

PLEASE KEEP FOOD & DRINK consumption inside the Gym.

NEW FLOWER ORDERS may now be placed for the coming year, starting with Sunday, January 8th. To order, please call the church office at 892-5610.

103 NEW MEMBERS received during 2016 will be welcomed at the January 7/8, 2017 services. (New members, details appear in your mail slots.)

THE GIVING TREE - This year we collected over 400 gifts. Thank you for your generosity! - J. Birk

The Lutheran Witness and Supplement for 2017 calendar year at \$18.00. There is an envelope in your packet if you wish to use it. Make checks payable to *Peace Lutheran Church*. Deadline is January 29.

PEACE LUTHERAN YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM (K-2) Registration deadline is today for the 2017 season. Registration forms are available on the PLAA website at www.leaguelineup.com/plaa. A. Reinitz

ALASKA MISSIONS SAUSAGE SALE This is the last day we will be selling sausages, cheeses, and gift items before Christmas! Stop by and pick up your items for gifts or special parties, in the gym after all services this weekend. Thank you for all your support for Alaska Missions.

PEACE HONG KONG MISSION TEAM is close but still needs \$5,000 to reach their airfare goal. Please consider giving a year-end donation. We leave Jan. 26, 2017 and give praise, honor, and glory to God for allowing this opportunity to serve Him! Thank you for your support!

POINSETTIAS: Anonymous, in memory of Jean Himmelmann, Lois Isenberg and Frieda Schaub; Sarah & Jacob Baese and Allison & Paul Maschhoff, in memory of Grandma Ginnie Baese; Paul and Verna Beck, to the glory of God; Mary Bentrup, in memory of husband Bob; Jerry and Joyce Birk, in memory of Betty and Ruth, our mothers; Elaine Blair, in memory of Charles Blair; Vern Bollman, in memory of Grace Bollman; Helen Breitenfeld, in memory of Marvin Breitenfeld; Donald and Susan Chapman, in memory of Norma and Linda Chapman; Dennis Christ, in memory of Walter Christ; Bill and Terri Dalton, in honor of Porter Michael Dalton; Kathy Ebmeier, in memory of Alice Yelton and Helen Ebmeier; Greg and Lois Ebmeyer, in memory of Norbert & Lorraine Laramie, Don Ebmeyer, and Rich George; Terry L. Eckert, in memory of Joseph J. & Margaret Schmitt and Tracy L. Dorman; Bill and Sue Feero, to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the birth of His Son, Our Savior; Bruce and Merrily Goldsmith, to the glory of God; Don and Susan Hasting, in memory of Julia Schmich; Helen Hellwege, in memory of husband Wil Hellwege; Don and Peg Hennen, in memory of Don B. Hennen Sr. and Karl F. Meyer; Bruce and Jane Herzog, in memory of Doris Herzog and Erwin & Marie Weigel; John Hooss Family, to the glory of God; Pat and Ray Kergo, in memory of our parents; Leon and Mary Jane Knoernschild, in memory of our parents; Alicia Lanham, in memory of Thomas Lanham; Ray Lange, in memory of Deloris Lange; Sandra Lewis, in memory of my niece Valarie Seevers; Sharon Marshall, in memory of Albert Marshall and Roy Evers; Vicki McConnell, in memory of Jim McConnell; Scott and Nancy Mirly, our thanks for God's blessings; Mueller, Noser and Truemper Families, in memory of Ed Mueller; Bob and Mary Lou Mullen, in memory of Dale Mullen and Elmer Johnson; Louise and Mark Mullen, in memory of Louise and Claude Lamprecht; Louise and Mark Mullen, in memory of Dale and Stacy Mullen; Tom and Renee Pratt, in memory of Georgia Foster, Adeline Haught, and Mary Dennison; Lynn Queathem, in memory of Brian Cullom; John and Tracey Roesch, in memory of loved ones no longer with us; Rubach Family, in memory of Ronald Rubach; Saberton Family, in memory of Ron Saberton; Wayne and Marilyn Schuessler, to the glory of God; Joyce Schutte Family, in memory of Charlie Schutte; Milton Simunich, in memory of Dorothy Simunich; Smith and Keller Families, in memory of Emil and Verna Keller; Jim and Donna Stabile, in honor of grandchildren Brayden, Madelyn, Alex, and Ethan Stabile; Anita Thomas, in memory of Don Thomas; Arlene Thorburg, in memory of Jim Thorburg; Grace and Ralph Truemper and Rita Mueller, in memory of our parents; Roger and Dottie Uhlig, in memory of Rey and Virginia Uhlig; Diane Woehr, in memory of Albert and Christine Woehr; Ralph Wolters, in memory of Shirley Wolters; Rob and Marlene Wussler, to the glory of God; Tom and Leigh Ann Zaretsky, in honor of Rich & Barb Eichhorst and Rose Zaretsky; Tom and Leigh Ann Zaretsky, in memory of Tom Zaretsky Sr.

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2016:

Today: 4:00 Sunday School Christmas Service
Mon: 3:30 GP Practice
7:00 Brass Choir Rehearsal
Tue: 9:00 Quilters
6:00 Property Management
6:30 Men's Volleyball
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 Peace Strings Rehearsal
Wed: 9:00 TPL Assembly
11:00 South County Senior Citizens
7:00 Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal

Thu: 9:00 Mary/Martha
Fri: **CHRISTMAS EVE HOLIDAY**
OFFICE CLOSED
EARLY CHILDHOOD CLOSED
7:30 Christmas at Peace Concert
Sat: 12:00 Worship Service w/Communion
3:00 Worship Service w/ Communion
5:00 Worship Service w/ Communion
10:00 Choral Candlelight Worship
Sun: 9:20 Worship Service w/Communion
10:30 Worship Service w/Communion