

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Divine Service III LSB pages 184-202

L = Liturgist \* = Stand C = Congregation

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*HYMN OF INVOCATION**

*From East to West*

**LSB 385**

1. **From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev'ry heart awake and sing  
The holy child whom Mary bore, The Christ, the ever lasting king.**
2. **Behold, the world's creator wears The form and fashion of a slave;  
Our very flesh our maker shares, His fallen creatures all to save.**
3. **For this how wondrously He wrought! A maiden, in her lowly place,  
Became, in ways beyond all thought, The chosen vessel of His grace.**
4. **And while the angels in the sky Sang praise above the silent field,  
To shepherds poor the Lord Most High, The one great Shepherd, was revealed.**
5. **All glory for this blessed morn To God the Father ever be;  
All praise to You, O Virgin born, And Holy Ghost eternally.**

INVOCATION AND GENERAL CONFESSION

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

**C: Amen.**

L: Behold the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch. (Jeremiah 23: 5-6)

**C: And He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

L: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

**C: And this is the name by which He will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."**

L: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; (Isaiah 9:6)

**C: And the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

L: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C: To guide our feet into the way of peace.**

L: Blot out our iniquities, Sovereign Lord,

**C: And forgive us for Your name's sake, gracious Lord.**

L: Absolve us for Your mercy's sake, holy Lord.

**C: And cleanse us from all our transgressions. 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.**

**\* 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 Micah 5:2-4, page 779:

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: **✠ Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE is from Hebrews 10:5-10, page 1006:

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" <sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

**\* THE ALLELUIA VERSE**

C: **✠ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\*THE HOLY GOSPEL - The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter, verses 39-45, pages 856:

C: **✠ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

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

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **✠ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**\*THE CREED (Luther's Explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article)**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SONG (Sung as the children come forward)

(8:00 & 10:30)

*I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes*

1. I am so glad when Christmas comes The night of Jesus' birth,  
When Bethl'm's star shone as the sun And angels sang with mirth.
2. The little Child of Bethlehem, The King of heavenly grace,  
Came down from His exalted throne To save our fallen race.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Christina Stackle

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Watchman, Tell Us Of the Night*

TLH 71

1. Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are.  
Trav'ler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, doth its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope foretell?  
Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.
2. Watchman, tell us of the night; Higher yet that star ascends.  
Trav'ler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth, its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone Gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Trav'ler, ages are its own; See it bursts o'er all the earth.
3. Watchman, tell us of the night, For the morning seems to dawn.  
Trav'ler, darkness takes it flight; Doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, let thy wand'rings cease; Hie thee to thy quiet home.  
Trav'ler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God, is come!

THE SERMON

"God Among Us"

(Luke 1:39-45)

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 (Found on the inside back cover of the hymnal.)

\*THE BENEDICTION

C: ♫ Amen, amen, amen.

\*THE CLOSING HYMN

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

LW 366

1. All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.
2. For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

\*SILENT PRAYER/POSTLUDE

+ + + + +

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY:

Preacher: Pastor Jon C. Furgeson

Liturgist: Pastor Dennis A. Kastens

Organist: 5:00 & 9:20: Burnell Hackman, DMM; 8:00 & 10:30: Kendra Ruesler

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

NEWS AND NOTES:

THE 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2018

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

Adult Bible Class (Lower Commons): American Church History

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

Youth Bible Class: led by Christina Stackle, DCE

8th Gr: Rick Goodman & Mike Renner    7th Gr: Greg Wirtel & Louise Oster

"CHRISTMAS AT PEACE" CONCERT 3:00 p.m. **today.** Invite others!

NEW MEMBERS received during 2018 will be welcomed at the January 12/13, 2019 services. (New members, details appear in your mail slots.)

ALASKA MISSIONS SAUSAGE SALE is in the gym. Profits help fund mission work in Hooper Bay Alaska in summer 2019. Also sponsored by Thrivent.

ADULT INQUIRY series begins Jan. 13, with sessions on Sundays, 6-8 p.m. for those desiring to learn about our faith or church membership. Sign-up is posted on the Commons' bulletin board.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER is in your mail slot.

2019 USHER SCHEDULES are ready for pick up in the Ushers Room.

The Lutheran Witness and Supplement for 2019 calendar year is \$18.00. There is an envelope in your contribution envelope box if you wish to use it. Please make checks payable to *Peace Lutheran Church*.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES are invited by the Children's Ministry Board to roller skate at Rock Roll-O-Rena Roller Rink, 4153 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, on Wed., Jan. 2, 6-8:00 p.m. We've rented the rink for the evening. It is a perfect time to come and learn to skate. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The event is free. Sign up through the church website.

YOUTH NEWS: High School Seniors and Parents - It's that time of the year to begin discussions about transitioning to life after high school. For 4 weeks in January we will have a class specially designed for parents and Seniors to discuss the next steps. Parents will meet in the former sanctuary and the High School Seniors will meet in the former sanctuary conference room. Please let Christina know if you are able to attend.

BIG BAND SWING NIGHT Lutheran South Bands will host a "Big Band Swing" featuring "The Ambassadors of Swing" on Saturday, January 26 from 7:00-10:00p.m. in the Kuhlmann Center at South. A \$20 ticket includes beer, wine, and appetizers. Free swing dance lessons at 6:30 p.m. This event is limited to 200 guests, so purchase your tickets at Lutheran South as soon as possible.

FREE OPEN GYM AT GREEN PARK LUTHERAN SCHOOL Beat the cold and join us for some indoor play at Green Park, the second Thursday of each month, from 8:30-10:30am, (1/10, 2/14, 3/14). We'll have bounce houses, scooters, bean bags, balls and more. Children five and under accompanied by an adult welcome. Mornings are free, friends welcome, RSVP appreciated not required.

CHRISTMAS IS

Christmas is the LIGHT that burns eternally from Him who is the Light of the World. Christmas is PEACE in a world quieted by Him who is the Prince of Peace. Christmas is FORGIVENESS assured by Him who reconciled us to God. Christmas is JOY from Him with whom we have fellowship with the Father. Christmas is GIVING to those who cannot give, from ONE who has given us in Christ all that matters. Christmas is LOVE from Him who left the glories of heaven as our Savior, to walk the streets of earth that we one day walk the streets of heaven.

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2018:

Today: 3:00 "Christmas at Peace" Concert

Mon: **CHRISTMAS EVE-OFFICE CLOSED**

12:00 Worship Service w/Comm

3:00 Worship Service w/Comm

5:00 Worship Service w/Comm

10:00 Worship Service

Tue: **CHRISTMAS DAY-OFFICE CLOSED**

9:30 Worship Service w/Comm

Wed: Early Childhood-CLOSED

Thu: Early Childhood-CLOSED

Fri: Early Childhood-CLOSED

Sat: 5:00 Worship Service

Sun:8:00/9:20/10:30 Worship Service