

THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE - “Come to Bethlehem and See”
by Charles Widor

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Beholding the miracle born in human flesh, let us approach the God of grace to confess our human sin and weakness.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

God of grace, **we confess before you that we have wandered from your presence to seek the false security of other gods around us. We often look for you in strongholds of power and wealth, and do not see your presence among the ordinary places of our world. Forgive us, O Lord, and redirect us to forms of service that fulfill your desire for us. Amen.**

Out of God’s great mercy, Jesus Christ took on our humanity, and from that same love made flesh you are forgiven all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN 367 vs 1, 2 & 5 - we sing, standing

GREETING

The grace of the child born for us and the joy of the Son given to us be with you all. **And also with you.**

page 170 - **HYMN OF PRAISE**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and

reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(please be seated)

FIRST LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 2 - we sing in unison to Tone C



SECOND LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN 952 - ALLELUIA - we sing, standing

GOSPEL *(bulletin back page)*

Before, all shout: Glory to you, O Lord!

After, all shout: Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN 388 - we sing, seated

SERMON

NICENE CREED - last page hymnal, all stand

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH -all may kneel

Response: **Hear our prayer!**

OFFERTORY

The Choir Ensemble sings “Do You Have Room” by Edwards

page 177 - SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

page 178 - SANCTUS

page 179 - LORD’S PRAYER and WORDS OF OUR LORD

SHARING OF THE PEACE

page 180 - **AGNUS DEI**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

During the Distribution, we sing HYMNS 389 and 391

All are invited to commune who have been baptized and instructed in the Faith; who repent of their sins; who are committed to Christ and to the mission of his church; and who believe with us that we receive and share our Savior’s Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine of the Sacrament - as signs of his forgiveness and of

NEWS AND NOTES

Last Sunday Here

Attending: 130 Offering: \$5,890

This Week Here

Thur -10:00 AM - Bulletin Pick Up

Next Sunday! There will be one service held on January 1. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. for a Service of Lessons and Carols.

Attn Council Members! If you have not already done so, please hand in your year-end reports to the office by January 2 so that it may be included in the Annual Report.

2023 Volunteers Needed to deliver items to the **food pantry** and **Hope Pregnancy Center**. If you are able and would like to deliv-

A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells Among Us in the Flesh - The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples “of all the nations,” so that “all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” The Lord has “bared his holy arm” in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, “whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world” (Heb. 1:2). As “all things were made through him” (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold “the radiance of the glory of God” (Heb. 1:3), “glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

our Christian family solidarity.

All who commune, kindly sign your names in our Communicant Register, which is located on the narthex shelf along side our Guest Register.

page 182 - **NUNC DIMITTIS**

PRAYER and BENECTION

HYMN 390 - we sing, standing

POSTLUDE - “Minuet in D” by Couperin

er items once or twice a year, please sign up on the bulletin board.

Do you know the date that you were Baptized? If you do, we’d like to know it in the Church office too. We already keep track of birthdays and wedding anniversaries, including them in the monthly newsletters and the Sunday morning prayers. We would like to add “Baptismal Birthdays” to that list too. Look for the packet on the counter outside the Church office for people to write down the date of their Baptism. We hope to have the information collected in time to start including the list of those special days (just the month and date, not the year) with the first *Heavenly Herald* of the new year.