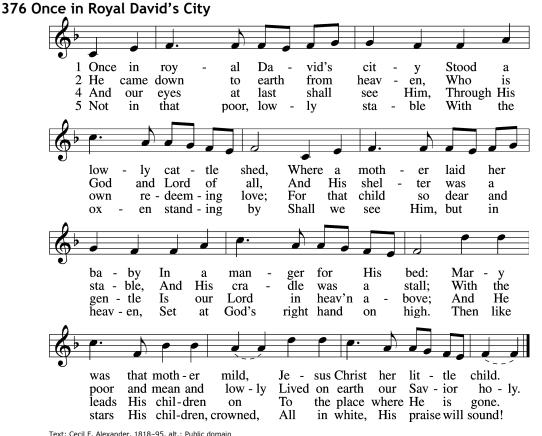
# Prelude

Stand



Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.; Public domain Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76; Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

# Invocation

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

# **Christmas Dialog**

- **P** The Word became flesh, and we have seen His glory.
- **C** Oh come, let us worship Him.
- **P** The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
- **C** The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.
- P On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
- **C** We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.
- **P** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- **C** In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

# Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.

sts. 1–2, 4–5

- **P** Let us pray.
- **C** O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

# 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Public domain Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47; Public domain

#### **First Lesson**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

#### **C** Thanks be to God.

### 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.; Public domain Tune: German, 14th cent.; Public domain

#### Second Lesson

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;

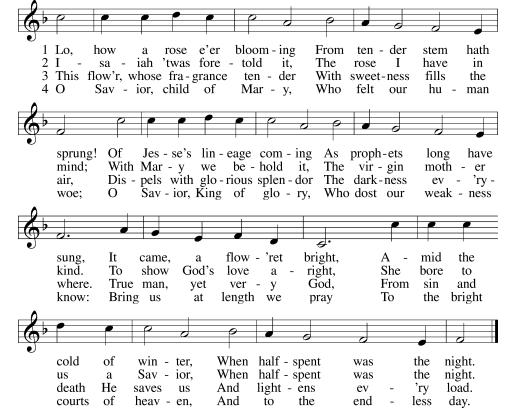
Isaiah 11:1–9

and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948; Public domain Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln; Public domain

### Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

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

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And 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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

## 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

up - on It the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old. 1 came 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled, 3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low, 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old. an - gels bend - ing near the earth To From touch their harps of gold: And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world. a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow: Who toil a - long the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told. When down in - to "Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king." A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing, Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing, His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring, The world in sol - emn still - ness lay То hear the an - gels sing. ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels And ev - er o'er its sing. The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing. And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing. Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.; Public domain Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900; Public domain

### **Fourth Lesson**

Matthew 1:18–25

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.C Praise to You, O Christ.



Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.; Public dom Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905; Public domain

### Fifth Lesson

P

Luke 2:8–16

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest,

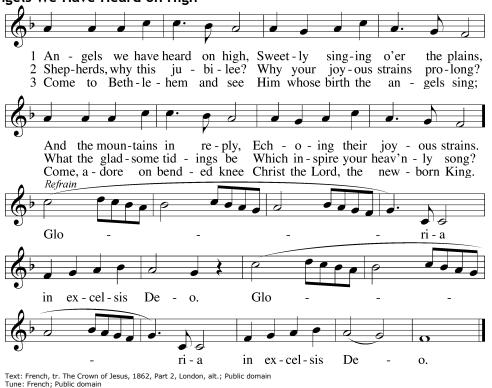
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

368 Angels We Have Heard on High



#### Sixth Lesson

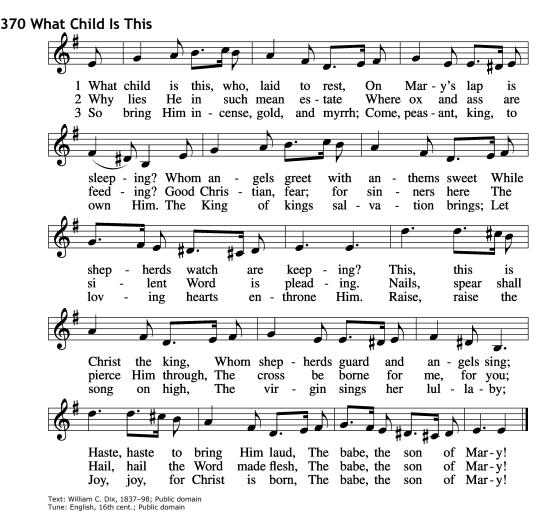
#### *Matthew 2:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6""And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.""

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



#### Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

С

6 0 come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O 1 Light of 2 Light e - ter - nal, High est, most ho - ly, 3 choirs of ex - ul - ta - tion, an - gels, Sing Sing, in 4 Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing; Yea, ye. 0 come come ye to Beth le - hem: gin, Born of а vir а mor tal He comes; -Sing, cit - i all ye zens of heav en a - bove! Thee. Je sus, to be glo giv'n! ry the Come hold Him Born of gels: and be king an -Fa of ther Now flesh pear - ing! Son the in ap \_ high - est: Glo ry to God\_ In\_ the. Fa - ther Word of the Now in flesh ap - pear - ing! Refrain Him, 0 come, let us a - dore 0 come, let us a - dore Him, 0 Him, Christ the Lord! come, let us dore а -Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Public domain Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; Public domain

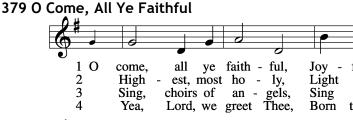
Stand

**Apostles' Creed** 

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

> And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.



#### 362 O Sing of Christ 1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord, 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred 3 He cameto that which was His own, But He was not re-ceived; 4 Lord Je-sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So could be re - stored. we Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred. Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved. Em - man - u - el,As God with us, То bring this ho - ly birth. Up on our frail hu - man-i ty God's fin - ger chose to trace when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly For Son; be The heirs of heav'n a these He gave the right to To bove. Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er ty, The full-ness de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace. of His and light And our re - demp-tion won. He came to life us as Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love. That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty! Text: Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955; © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000747

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#### Kneel

### Prayer of the Church

Each petition ends:

**P** Lord, in Your mercy:

**C** Hear our prayer!

The Prayers conclude:

- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all those for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- **C** Amen.

# Lord's Prayer

- **P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
   For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

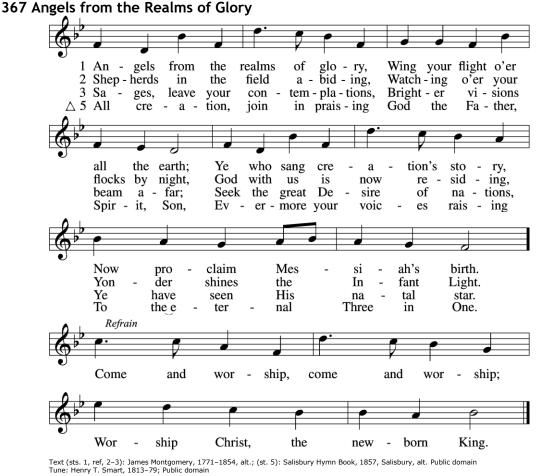
LSB 162

# **Benediction**

P 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.

```
С
Amen.
```

#### Stand



# Postlude

# **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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sts. 1, ref, 2-3, 5