

DECEMBER 24, 2025 - NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE EARLY

Prelude - “The First Noel” tune *English Carol*; setting by Paxton.

Stand

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

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Amid the shadows of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God’s forgiveness.

Kneel

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P God of grace and truth,

C in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, nor trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

P The angel said, You shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins. With great joy, as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2–4



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Greeting

- P** Good news of great joy, light and life, grace and peace be with you all.
C And also with you.

Christmas Dialog

- A** O God, the ruler of ages eternal, You are without beginning or end:
C Yet You choose to be born an infant in time. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A** O God, the invisible, You are the One whom no one has seen or can see:
C Yet You assume the face of the Son of Mary. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A** O God, the all-powerful, You hold the mountains in the palm of Your hand:
C Yet You let Yourself be wrapped in swaddling clothes. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A** O God, the eternal glory, innumerable angels acclaim You endlessly:
C Yet You choose to be rocked to sleep by the songs of the daughter of David. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A** O God, the infinite, heaven and earth cannot contain You:
C Yet You rest in the arms of Mary. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A** O God, the perfect joy, You are the source of the happiness of heaven and earth:
C Yet You cry as a little child. Praise to You, O Lord.
- A** O God, the eternal Word, You are the light of all created intelligence:
C Yet You are laid in a manger and cannot even speak. Praise to You, O Lord. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.
O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

- 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 shined.
- ³ 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.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 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.
⁷Of 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.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Anthem - The Parish Choir sings “Noel, Noel” tune *Noel Nouvelet* and *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, setting by Linda Spevacek.

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

368 Angels We Have Heard on High

sts. 1, ref, 3

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: French; Public domain

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



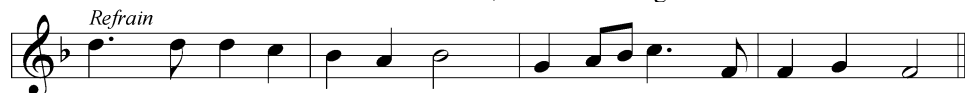
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Public domain

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47; Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Kneel

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God, in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Each petition ends:

P Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer!

The Prayers conclude:

P 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.

Sit

Anthem - The Parish Choir sings “*Silent The Night*” by Ruth Schram.

Stand

370 What Child Is This

sts. 1, 3

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98; Public domain

Tune: English, 16th cent.; Public domain

Preface

LSB 177

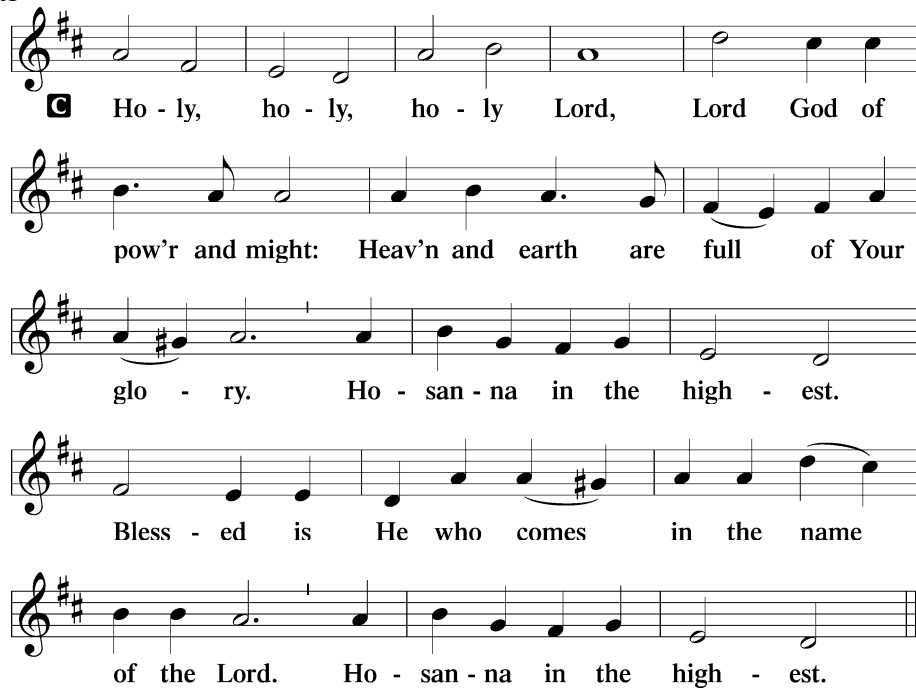
P The Lord be with you.
C And al-so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love

those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

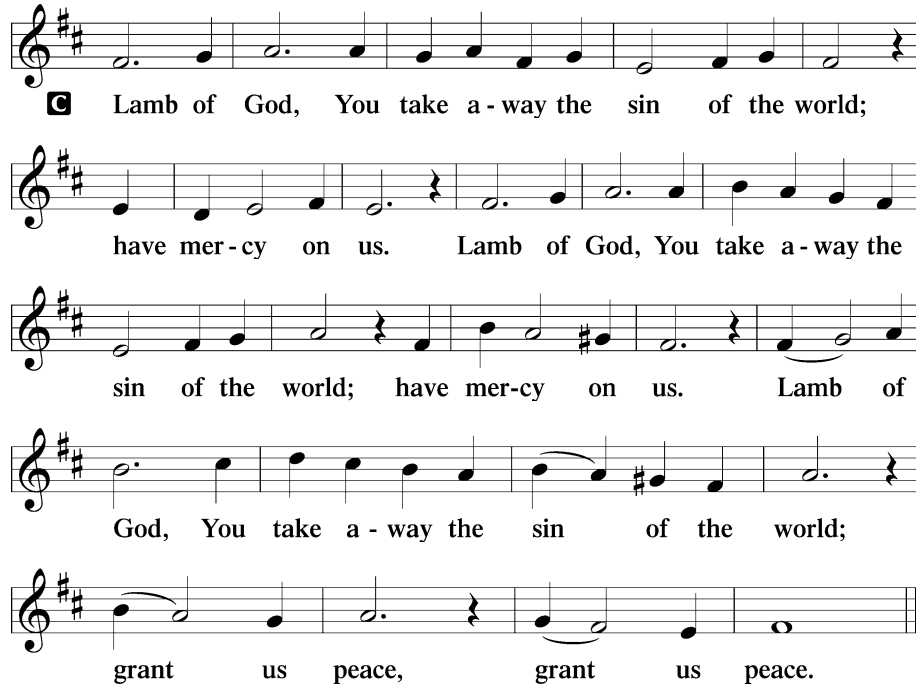
LSB 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180

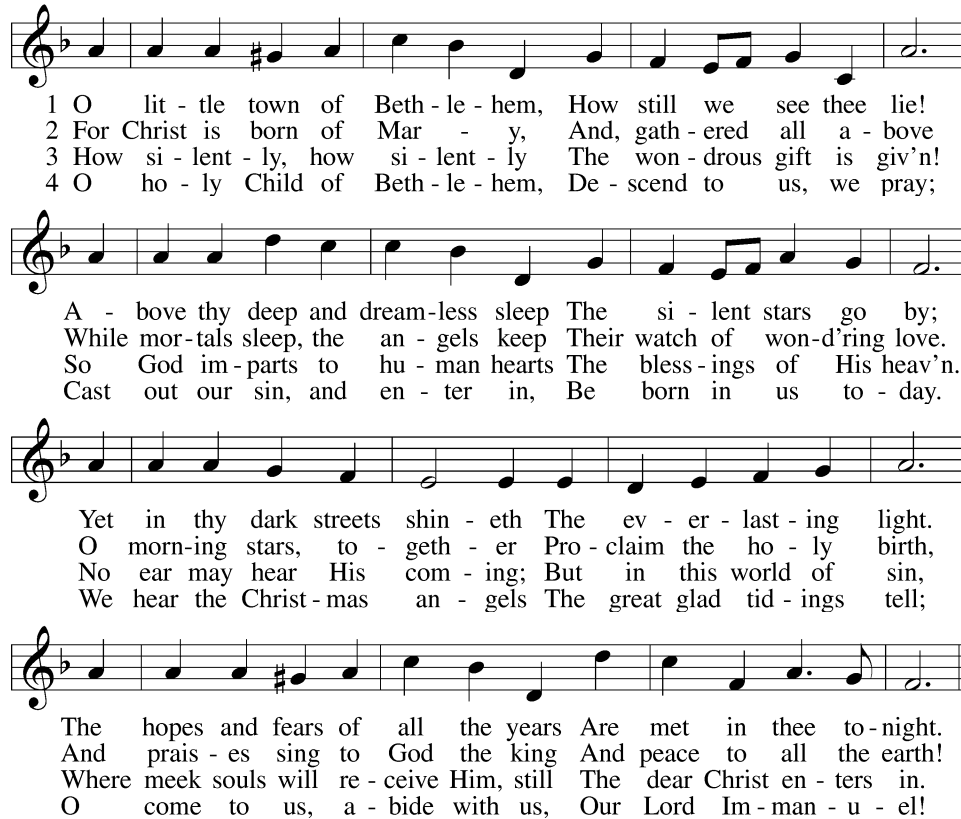


C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit-tle town of Beth-le-hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar-y, And, gath-ered all a-bove
3 How si-lent-ly, how si-lent-ly The won-drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho-ly Child of Beth-le-hem, De-scend to us, we pray;
A-bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si-lent stars go by;
While mor-tals sleep, the an-gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu-man hearts The bless-ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en-ter in, Be born in us to-day.
Yet in thy dark streets shin-eth The ev-er-last-ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to-geth-er Pro-claim the ho-ly birth,
No ear may hear His com-ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an-gels The great glad tid-ings tell;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
And prais-es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re-ceive Him, still The dear Christ en-ters in.
O come to us, a-bide with us, Our Lord Im-man-u-el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93; Public domain

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908; Public domain

364 Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933; Public domain

Tune: Piaae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald; Public domain

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
 Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Stand

363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1–3

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
 all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
 peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85. Public domain
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863; Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
 O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

LSB 183

- 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.
- C** Amen.

387 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; Public domain

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.; Public domain

Dismissal

- P** Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve our Lord.
C Thanks be to God!

Postlude - "Angels Sing" by Gordon.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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