



OUR SAVIOR

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday Divine Service 8:00am & 10:30am
Bible Study & Sunday School: 9:30am
1103 North Broad Street, Mankato, MN 56001

The Nativity of Our Lord
December 25, 2025

Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn: “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!
- 3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

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

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

LSB 185

Stand

Service of the Word

Kyrie

LSB 186



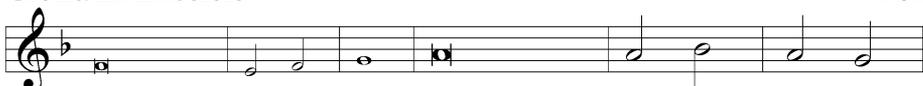
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spir - it.

P 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.

G A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38

¹⁷In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

The Glory of the LORD

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 2

The Reign of the LORD's Anointed

¹Why do the | nations rage*

and the peoples | plot in vain?

²The kings of the earth set themselves,

and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*

against the LORD and against his anointed, | saying,

³“Let us burst their | bonds apart*

and cast away their | cords from us.”

⁴He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*

the Lord holds them in de- | rision.

⁵Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*

and terrify them in his fury, | saying,

⁶“As for me, I have | set my King*

on Zion, my | holy hill.”

⁷I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;

today I have be- | gotten you.

⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,*

and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.

⁹You shall break them with a | rod of iron*

and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”

¹⁰Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*

be warned, O rulers | of the earth.

¹¹Serve the | LORD with fear,*

and rejoice with | trembling.

¹²Kiss the Son,

lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,

for his wrath is quickly | kindled.*

Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

Gloria Patri

186

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle

Titus 3:4–7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The Word Became Flesh

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

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

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

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John

bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: “A Great and Mighty Wonder”

LSB 383

1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! Refrain

- ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:
 "To God on high be glory
 And peace to all the earth!"
- 2 The Word becomes incarnate
 And yet remains on high,
 And cherubim sing anthems
 To shepherds from the sky. Refrain
- 3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
 Those bright angelic bands,
 Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
 And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain
- 4 Since all He comes to ransom,
 By all be He adored,
 The infant born in Beth'lem,
 The Savior and the Lord. Refrain
- 5 All idols then shall perish
 And Satan's lying cease,
 And Christ shall raise His scepter,
 Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

Text: Germanus, c. 634-c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory

LSB 192

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

If you are an active participant at Our Savior or a sister congregation, we are glad to commune with you today. If you are not a part of the LCMS, we ask that you refrain from Communion. As a sign of our common Christian fellowship If you would like to receive a blessing, please come to the table and cross your arms over your chest.

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, 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 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

P 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.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



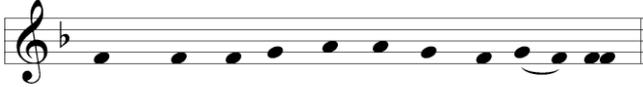
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution Hymns:

“See amid the Winter’s Snow”

LSB 373

- 1 See amid the winter’s snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years. Refrain

- ref Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
 Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
 Sing through all Jerusalem:
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
- 2 Lo, within a stable lies
 He who built the starry skies,
 He who, throned in height sublime,
 Sits amid the cherubim. Refrain
- 3 Sacred Infant, all divine,
 What a tender love was Thine,
 Thus to come from highest bliss
 Down to such a world as this! Refrain
- 4 Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
 By Thy face so meek and mild,
 Teach us to resemble Thee
 In Thy sweet humility. Refrain

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Text: Public domain

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB 358

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
 To bear good news to ev'ry home;
 Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
 Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 "To you this night is born a child
 Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
 This little child of lowly birth
 Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,
 Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
 He will Himself your Savior be
 From all your sins to set you free.
- 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow
 Prepared by God for all below,
 That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
 You may with us His glory share.
- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
 The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
 There you will find the infant laid
 By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
 While angels sing with pious mirth
 A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.



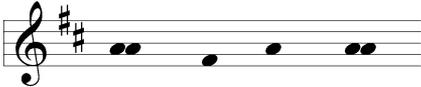
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367

- Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

△ 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ternal Three in One. Refrain

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Serving Today:

Liturgist..... *Rev. Adam M. Matheny*
Preacher..... *Rev. John H. Koopman*
Organist *Susan Klute*

On the Cover: Nativity, Jean-Baptiste Marie Pierre, 18th cent.