

F A I T H

L U T H E R A N C H U R C H



Born of the Virgin Mary

LUTHERAN
MIDNIGHT MASS
FOR CHRISTMAS

WELCOME!

If you are visiting us for the first time, welcome! Please see Pastor Hendrix after the service for a special Christmas gift.

WE LOVE LETTING KIDS BE WITH JESUS

Children learn the faith by watching those around them. Our service is for kids too. If we can help you in any way, let us know.

RESTROOMS & NURSERY

Restrooms are located downstairs for your convenience. We also offer a nursery wired with audio. If you need any further assistance, please feel free to ask an usher.

MASKS

We ask that you please wear a mask while inside. In all things, "Let us excuse [our neighbor], speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything." (8th Commandment, Explanation)

SERVICE NOTES

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" (Is 9:2-7), for the Light-Giver has entered into this world darkened by sin. The glory of the Lord shone around the shepherds in the night as they heard the glad tidings of the birth of the Savior (Lk 2:1-14). The grace of God that brings salvation (Titus 2:11-14) has appeared to all men in this Babe in the manger, Christ the Lord. The Prince of Peace has come in the flesh to redeem us from every lawless deed and to reconcile us to the Father. Therefore, we join the heavenly host in singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!"

SERVING TODAY

Preacher:	Rev. Jeff Hendrix
Organist:	Jo Carmichael
Altar Guild:	Lloyd & Ruth Klahn

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SERVICE OF PREPARATION



*The first part of our service prepares
our hearts to come before God.
God forgives our sins and the theme
for the day is set in the introit.*

Using the light from the Christ Candle, the ushers will light the candles of those in the center. From there, please light each candle in succession in your pew. Your candles may be lit until after the Gloria in Excelsis and Collect.

INTROIT

Antiphon: **Wisdom 18:14-15**, Psalm: **Psalm 2:7**



P When all was still and `it was midnight, /
 Your almighty Word descended from `the royal throne.
 The `Lord reigns, /
 He is clothed `with majesty.
 The `Lord said to Me, /
 “You are My Son, today I have `begotten You.”

C Glory be to the Father `and to the Son /
and to `the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the be`ginning, is now, /
and ever shall be. forever`more. A-men.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Silent Night | 140 vv. 1-3

Notes: The hymn “Silent Night” is based on the Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15 from which comes the tradition that Christ was born at midnight and that it was a still, silent night. The verse is the traditional introit to the service for midnight. Although the Wisdom of Solomon is part of the Apocrypha and not part of the canon of Scripture, Lutherans consider it useful and good for reading. The hymn has also become a favorite at Christmastime.

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace...

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar:

**Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born!...**

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth...

INVOCATION & CONFESSION

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 to 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 heav'n and earth

P ♪ I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;



C ♪ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to 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.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. May He comfort your heart by His holy Absolution, and strengthen you by His Sacraments, that your joy may be full. Peace be with you!

C Amen.

KYRIE [Lord, Have Mercy (Luke 18:39)]



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



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS [*Glory to God in the Highest (Luke 2:14)*]

Notes: Christ is born! After omitting it in Advent, we again sing with the angels the *Gloria in Excelsis* to welcome our God coming to us, not in a manger, but in Word and Sacrament.



P Glory be to God on high: **C** And on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise You, we bless You, we wor - ship You, we glorify You,



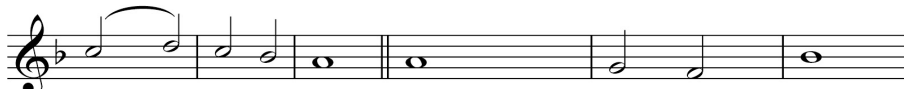
we give thanks to You, for Your great glory. O Lord God,



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



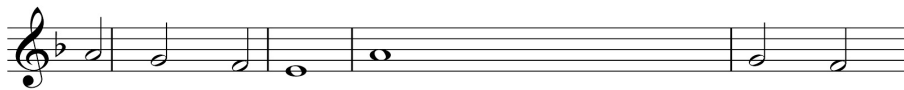
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,



Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the world,



have mercy up - on us. You take away the sin of the world,



re - ceive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the



Father, have mercy up - on us. For You only are holy.

You on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P  The Lord be with you.



C  And with Your spir - it

P O God, as You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech You, that we who have known the mysteries of that Light here on earth may come to the fullness of Its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C  Amen.

You may extinguish your candles. The lights may be brought up slightly.

SERVICE OF THE WORD



Our service builds towards the hearing of the Gospel. The lessons and even the chief hymn all reflect the theme of the Gospel.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. ³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. ⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian. ⁵Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The

authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.

HYMN

How Silently, How Silently... | **137 vv. 3, 4**

Notes: As the world is still, and we ponder the little town of Bethlehem, which means "House of Bread," we are being guided to partake of the Living Bread from Heaven that was laid in a manger – here for us today in His Holy Supper: "Be born in us today."

**3. How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls
will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!**

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works.

HYMN

Shepherds, Why This Jubilee? | **116 vv. 2-3**

**2. Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?**

Refrain:

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
(Refrain)**

GOSPEL PROCESSION & ALLELUIA VERSE

Psalm 95:1,6



Notes: During the Alleluia verse, Pastor processes to the center of the Nave to read the Christmas Gospel amidst the people. Symbolic of the fact that just as the *λόγος*, the Word Made Flesh was born among His people, the Word today is also still born among us and received in our hearts through faith.

P ♪ Alleluia. Alleluia. Oh come, let us `sing to the Lord! /
Let us worship and bow down before the Lord. `Alleluia.

Please stand to sing; turn and face the Holy Bible as it comes near.

C ♪ **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

P The Christmas Gospel, recorded in Luke 2:1-14:

C ♪ **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. ⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He 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." ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

P This is the Gospel of Christ.

C ♪ **Praise be to You, O Christ!**

ATHANASIAN CREED (2nd Article)

C Furthermore it is necessary for everlasting salvation that one also believe faithfully the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right faith is

that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; And Man of the substance of His mother, born in the world; Perfect God and perfect Man, of a rational soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead and inferior to the Father as touching His humanity. Who, although He is God and Man, yet He is not two but one Christ; One, not by changing of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking the manhood into God; One indeed, not by confusion of substance, but by oneness of person. For just as the rational soul and flesh is one man, So God and Man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, God almighty, from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. At whose coming all will rise again with their bodies and will give an account of their own works. And they that have done good will enter into life everlasting; and they that have done evil into everlasting fire. This is the catholic¹ faith; whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

CHIEF HYMN

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come | 123 vv. 1-2, 6-7

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.

6. Now let us all with gladsome cheer
Follow the shepherds and draw near
To see this wondrous gift of God,
Who hath His only Son bestowed.

7. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!
Who is it in yon manger lies?
Who is this Child, so young and fair?
The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

SERMON (Luke 2:1-14)

HYMN

O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is | 161 *(select verses printed on next page)*

1. The greek word 'catholic' means 'universal' and refers to the whole Christian church.



1. O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is
7. Thou Christ - ian heart, Who - e'er thou art,
8. Re - memb - er thou What glo - ry now



My par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.
Be of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee.
The Lord pre - pared thee for all earth - ly sad - ness.



For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word
For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild,
The an - gel host Can ne - ver boast



Made flesh for us— here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.
Joins thee to Him— how great - ly God must love thee!
Of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.

9. There dost thou see In front of thee
Thy flesh and blood which steer the clouds of heaven?
What then can rise To steal this prize,
And leave thy soul by fear and sorrow driven?



10. Thy mind so weak Will seldom seek
Its comfort in the midst of sin and danger.
So turn thine eyes Down from the skies
And find thy comfort in a lowly manger.

11. Though plagues thou bear, Do not despair!
Thy Brother will not spurn thy grief and sighing.
His heart is meek And loves the weak,
Nor can He see our suff'ring without crying.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

After a brief silent prayer, the *pastor prays on behalf of the congregation.*


P ...one God, now and forevermore. Amen.

CHRIST-MASS




The third part of our service is the second high point of the service, and what everything has been building towards. Christ actually comes to us in His Body and Blood by which He cleanses us of our sins.

PREFACE

P  The Lord be with you.




C  And with your spir - it.

P  Lift up your hearts.




C  We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P  Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.




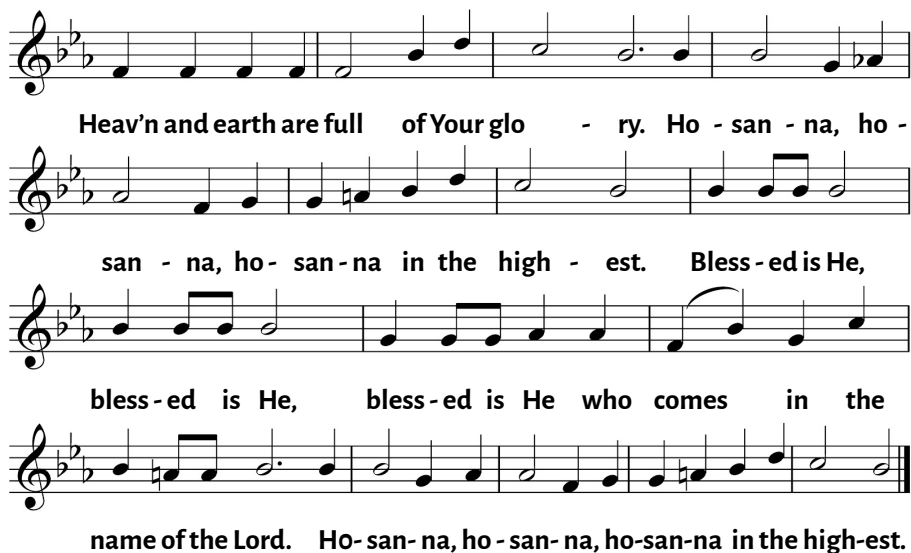
C  It is good and right so to do.

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

SANCTUS [Holy, Holy, Holy (Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9)]



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



Heav'n and earth are full of Your 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 who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P ♪ Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "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, gave thanks, and 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 and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

P ♪ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C ♪ Amen.

AGNUS DEI [*Lamb of God (John 1:29)*]



C O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world,



have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You



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



O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world,



grant us Your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

- *Holy Communion is limited to communicant members of our fellowship, who have properly announced themselves to the pastor beforehand.*
- *Please limit one family per side of the communion rail, or two individuals per side.*
- *To receive the host, form a cup with your hands to receive.*
- *While others commune, take this time to pray the prayers for Communion (ELH pg. 40) or read the hymn “O Lord, We Praise Thee, Bless Thee, and Adore Thee” (327).*

After the Holy Supper, our candles will again be lit as we sing the Nunc Dimittis, and the “Light to Lighten the Gentiles” which we have seen with our own eyes in His Holy Supper.

NUNC DIMITTIS



C Lord, now You let Your servant de - part in peace ac -
cord-ing to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo-ry of Your 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, for - ev - er - more. A - men.

DISMISSAL, THANKSGIVING & SALUTATION

P ♪ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



C ♪ And His mercy en - dures for - ev - er

P Let us pray: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in lovingkindness 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 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 true God now and forever.

C  **Amen.**

P  The Lord be with you.




C  And with your spir - it.

P  Let us bless the Lord.



C  Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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.

HYMN To Shepherds as They Watched by Night | 154 (tune: *Puer Nobis*, 106)

1. To shepherds as they watched by night 4. What harm can sin and death then do?

Appeared a host of angels bright;
"Behold the tender Babe," they said,
"In yonder lowly manger laid,

The true God now abides with you.
Let hell and Satan rage and chafe,
Christ is your Brother—ye are safe.

2. "At Bethlehem, in David's town,
As Micah did of old make known.
'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King,
Who doth to all salvation bring."

5. Not one He will or can forsake
Who Him his confidence doth make.
Let all his wiles the Tempter try,
You may his utmost pow'rs defy.

3. O then rejoice that through His Son
God is with sinners now at one;
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,
Your Brother is th'eternal God.

6. Ye shall and must at last prevail;
God's own ye are, ye cannot fail.
To God forever sing your praise
With joy and patience all your days.

CHRISTMAS *at* FAITH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Vespers | 6:30pm – Dec. 24.

An evening service of preparation for Christmas, with singing and prayer, centered around Matthew's Christmas account. This service is more reflective than Christmas morning and has historically been seen as the "warm-up" to the next morning's service.

Midnight Mass | 11:00pm – Dec. 24.

A different service than 6:30pm vespers. This service will be a smaller gathering, candle-lit, and include the Lord's Supper, or Christ's Mass, as well as many familiar Christmas hymns. We hear Luke's Gospel at this service.

Christ's Mass Divine Service | 9:00am – Christmas Morning, Dec. 25.

Don't forget the Mass in Christmas. Christ is born for us today in His Word and Sacraments. This joyous service is complete with the celebration of the incarnate Christ in Holy Communion. The Christmas account in the Gospel of John gives us our theme for today.

First Sunday in Christmas – Feast of St. John | 9:00am, Dec. 27.

The apostle and evangelist who wrote that Christ is the Light of the World is commemorated on this day. The oldest of the apostles comforts us in our last days.

Second Sunday in Christmas | 9:00am, Jan. 3

A true comfort for anyone who has lost a child. Herod's slaying of the children in search of the young child Jesus meant that those children were the first to be martyred for the sake of Jesus. Yet, the fact that Jesus came as an infant shows that He has come to suffer for and redeem even little children.

12th Day of Christmas Party | 4:00-5:30pm, Jan. 5

Join us for a party with wassail, drinks, treats, and singing as we celebrate the final night of Christmas. Held OUTSIDE around a bonfire this year at the Parsonage. Contact Pastor for address.

Feast of Epiphany Evening Service | 6:30pm, Jan. 6

Epiphany, the celebration of the wise men visiting the young boy Jesus, is always January 6. Come worship the Christ child as the wise men did.