



**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
THE DIVINE SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Grace Lutheran Church  
Hillcrest at Kavanaugh  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Monday, December 25, 2023  
10:00 AM

# Order of Service

## Prelude

## Ringin of the Bell

*Stand*

## Confession and Absolution

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

## Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

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

## Exhortation

*Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5*

- 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.**

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

## Confession of Sins

- 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

[John 20:19–23]

**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 unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Processional Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



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!

Text and tune: Public domain

# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*



- A** 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.
- C** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!\*  
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.  
The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.\*  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;\*  
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!  
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- A** 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.

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



**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

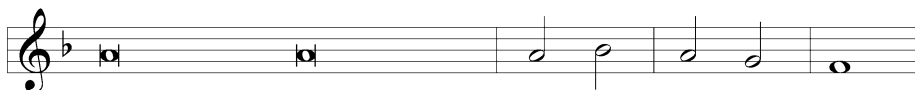
*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



Glory be to God on high: 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;



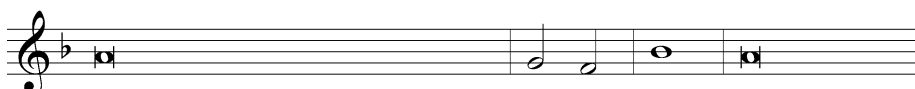
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



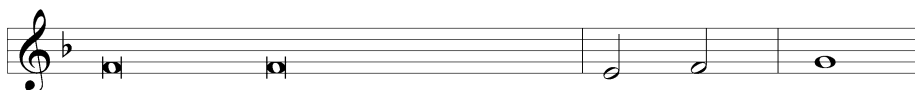
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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.



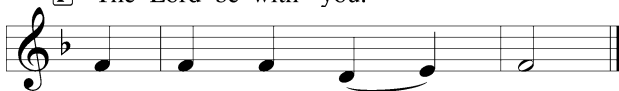
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** 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.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38*

In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He 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. And 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. . . .

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And 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. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. For 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.

## Gradual

*Psalm 118:26a, 27a, 23*



**C** Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!\*

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.

This is the LORD's | doing;\*

it is marvelous | in our eyes.

## Epistle

*Titus 3:4–7*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he 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, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so 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 and Verse

*Liturgical Text*

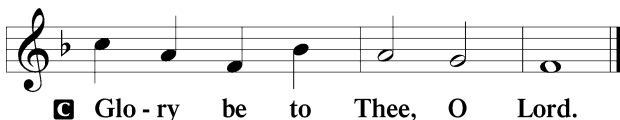


A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord.

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:1-18*

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



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

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

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

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. (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.'") And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No 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.





## Nicene Creed

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

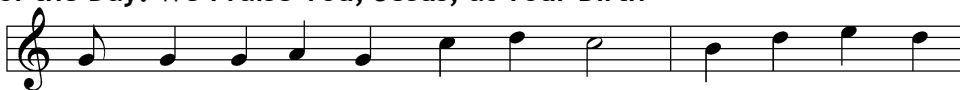
**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came 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: We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

LSB 382



1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You  
 2 Now in the man - ger we may see God's Son from e -  
 3 The vir - gin Mar - y's lul - la - by Calms the in - fant  
 4 The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to



came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy  
 ter - ni - ty, The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne  
 Lord Most High. Up - on her lap con - tent is He  
 gleam a - new; His beams have pierced the core of night,



And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Who keeps the earth and sky and sea. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 He makes us chil - dren of the light. Al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 The very Son of God sublime  
Entered into earthly time  
To lead us from this world of cares  
To heaven's courts as blessed heirs.  
Alleluia!
- 6 In poverty He came to earth  
Showing mercy by His birth;  
He makes us rich in heav'nly ways  
As we, like angels, sing His praise.  
Alleluia!
- 7 All this for us our God has done  
Granting love through His own Son.  
Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice  
And sing His praise with endless voice.  
Alleluia!

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## Sermon

Stand

## Offertory

*Psalm 51:10–12*

**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.

*Sit*

## Offering & Voluntary

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

*Each petition ends with the following:*

**P** Let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

*After the final petition:*

**C** Amen.

*Following the Prayer of the Church, the live stream is paused for the Service of the Sacrament. If you would like to request a pastoral visit to receive the Sacrament, please contact Pastor Schaaf or the church office.*

*The live stream audio will resume with the distribution hymns, and the video will resume after the distribution of the Lord's Supper.*

## Distribution Hymn: All My Heart Again Rejoices

LSB 360



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near  
2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,  
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave  
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing  
Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,  
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en  
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



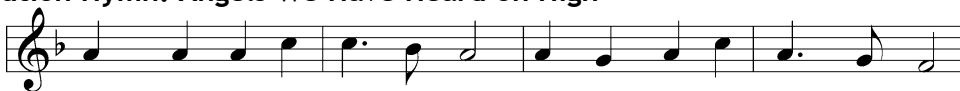
Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.  
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

- 5 Softly from His lowly manger  
Jesus calls  
One and all,  
"You are safe from danger.  
Children, from the sins that grieve you  
You are freed;  
All you need  
I will surely give you."
- 6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!  
One and all,  
Great and small,  
Come with songs of gladness.  
We shall live with Him forever  
There on high  
In that joy  
Which will vanish never.

Text and tune: Public domain

# Distribution Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 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.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



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



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

Text and tune: Public domain

# Distribution Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and  
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard  
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,  
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,  
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing  
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -  
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the  
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to  
As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -




scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.  
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
van - quish As the dark-ness clears a - way.  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis


*Luke 2:29–32*



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 - tles and the glo - ry of Thy

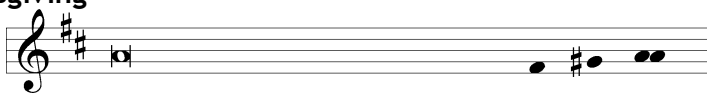

  
 peo-ple Is - ra-el.

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

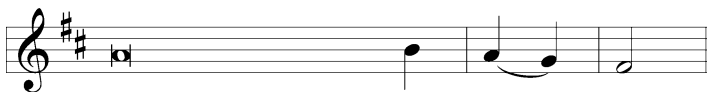
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

*Psalm 107:1*



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## 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** A - men.

## Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*



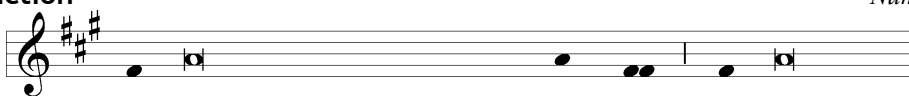
**A** Bless we the Lord.



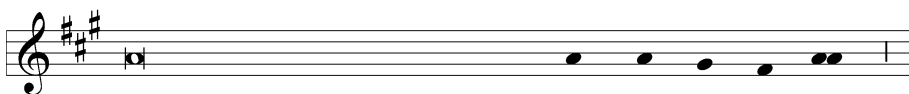
**G** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

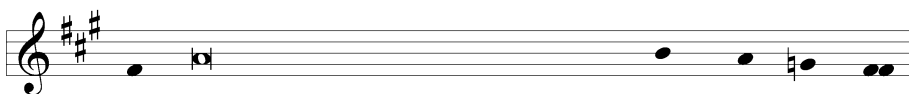
*Numbers 6:24-26*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



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



**G** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Closing Hymn: Joy to the World

LSB 387



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  
play, 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.

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## Postlude

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