

## Communion Statement We will be celebrating Holy Communion at this service

We consider this to be a family meal partaken in and with the Real Presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The term "Communion" describes the relationship between the participants, certainly between each person and our Savior whose meal it is, but also with all who come together to consume Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. To properly celebrate Communion all participants should be in communion; sharing the same confession of faith as is taught by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). We welcome all those who regularly confess this faith as members or regular attenders of Lamb of God. Those who belong to another LCMS congregation and wish to join with us as fellow family members are asked to speak to an Elder prior to the beginning of service. Those who are visiting but not members of an LCMS congregation may approach the communion rail and receive a blessing with their arms folded in front of their chest, or remain seated.

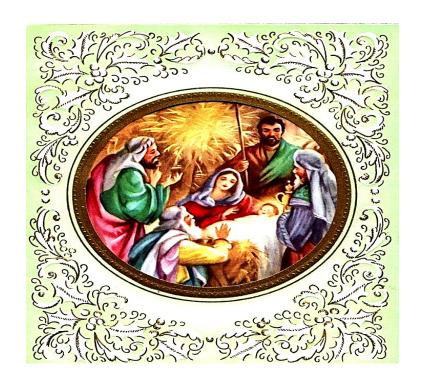
This has been the practice of the Church from the beginning, which according to earliest records would dismiss all those not baptized and confirmed before the Lord's Supper was celebrated. We are celebrating this Sacrament in keeping with this tradition. If you are from outside the LCMS confession, please know that we are not judging you or your faith. We are not implying that you are not a Christian or worthy of the gifts Christ won for you on the cross. We are simply acknowledging that since you do not have the same confession as we do you are not "in communion" with us. If you still desire to participate in Holy Communion in the future at Lamb of God please speak with Pastor Mark after the service. Thank you for honoring our celebration of Holy Communion.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Note: For those concerned about consuming alcohol-the individual cups in the center of each tray contain diluted wine. (1 drop of wine in water) There is gluten free wafers.

## **Lamb of God Lutheran Church**

Empowered by Christ's Sacraments to be His witness in Friendship/Fellowship/and Faith.

2051 West Maple Ave. Flint, MI 48507 810 234 2423 Pastor Mark Pretznow 248 736 8639



Christmas Eve Liturgy - 10:00 pm
Divine Service I
December 24, 2021

# Pre-Service Music Hallelujah Ringers

#### Carol of the Bells

Carol of the Bells is a traditional Ukrainian Carol. This song is a perfect start of any bell concert. Words start out "Hark, hear the bells, Sweet silver bells." It is a song of bells and how they bring joy and cheer to all people. This piece was composed by Mykolo Leontovich and arranged by Douglas E. Wagner.

#### The Little Drummer Boy

Composed and written by Harry Simeone, Katherine Davis and Henry Onorati. Arranged by Daniel Hermany. The story is that a poor boy, couldn't afford a gift for the newborn Christ Child, so he played his drum at the manger with Mary's approval. The baby smiled, delighted with the Little Drummer Boy's skillful playing.

#### Christmas Chimings

Christmas Chimings is a piece composed of three favorite Christmas hymns. -

- 1. Joy to the World, a poem written by Isaac Watts while studying Psalm 98-"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise," A century later, Lowell Mason composed the tune Antioch. The tune begged for words and three years later, Mason read a book of poems by Watts, and found the right words to go with his music.
- 2. Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, was first written by Charles Wesley in 1737 and had the line, Hark! how all the welkin rings, glory to the King of Kings. When George Whitefield published the song, he changed the words without consulting Wesley. Wesley was incensed as nowhere in the Bible did angels sing about the birth of Christ.

. But because of that line most people believe that Luke 2:13 refers to singing angels rather than the heavenly host who appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. William Cummings in 1855 paired the song with Felix Mendelssohn's Guttenberg tribute "Festgesang an die Knustler" and the end result was a dramatic change unimagined by either composer.

O Come, All Ye Faithful. There are many disputes on who wrote the words and who composed the tune. It was adopted by many Christian churches before 1900. A song great for mobile choirs going from house to house. It was recorded and release in 1905 by an American vocal group. It hit number seven on the "National Hit Parade".

These pieces are arranged by Dan R. Edwards.

#### Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella.

We don't know who composed the song, however, we do know that it was composed in the 17th century or earlier. The lyrics of the song tell the story of Jeanette and Isabella who find Jesus and Mary in the stable. It is arranged by Cathy Moklebust.

## It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

This was a poem written by Dr. Edmund Sears, a Unitarian minister, who was working on his Christmas sermon in 1849. He took his inspiration from Luke 2:8-9. It is arranged by John Behnke



#### Carols for the Newborn King

Another three carol piece arranged by Lloyd Larson.

- 1. Cradle Song, which is Away in The Manger, not the traditional tune, but the words are still the beloved words we learned as young children. The beautiful and serene picture painted in the carol's lyrics defines 'peace on earth' better than most books or sermons.
- 2. Sussex Carol, which is popular in Britain and was published by a 17th century Irish bishop. We sing it with the words On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing,
- 3. *The First Nowell,* which is one of the oldest carols around from the 16th century. Both France and England claim origin, but no matter- there is no doubt of the writer's Christian faith and spirit.

#### **Bell Ringers**

Jill Bailey, Jon Boerger, Kay Dexel, Doreen Glomski, Cindy Goodall, Rita Jones, Faith Moss, Mike Payne, Meg Prosch, Laura Rink, Isis Sharick, Linda Weston



## Procession of the Cross

#### **Entrance of the Processional Cross**

P Please stand and face the Processional Cross



## Confession and Absolution

Please stand as you are able

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

#### Invocation

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Exhortation LSB 151

- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

#### **Confession of Sins**

LSB 151

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution LSB 151

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

## Service of the Word

#### Introit

- **P** I will tell of the decree:
- The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."
- **P** The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
- **C** the world and those who dwell therein.
- **P** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
- And who shall stand in his holy place?
- P He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
- who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
- P He will receive blessing from the LORD
- and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- 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.

- **P** I will tell of the decree:
- The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

Kyrie LSB 152

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

#### Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to This peo - pie on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

#### Please be seated

#### Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 7:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. <sup>2</sup>When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

<sup>3</sup>And the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. <sup>4</sup>And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. <sup>5</sup>Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, <sup>6</sup>"Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it," <sup>7</sup>thus says the Lord GoD:

"'It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. <sup>8</sup>For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin.

(Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken to pieces so that it will no longer be a people.)

9""And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.If you are not firm in faith,you will not be firm at all.""

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

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

#### **Epistle Lesson:**

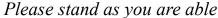
1 John 4:7-16

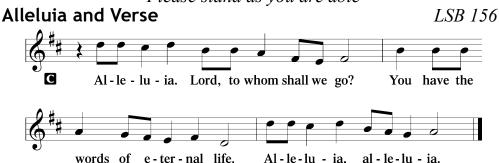
<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

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

#### C Thanks be to God.





#### Holy Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-25

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<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.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

#### 373 See amid the Winter's Snow A Lamb of God Favorite



Sermon: 1 John 4:9-11

Please stand as you are able

#### 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

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.

## Offering and Prayers

#### Offering Statement:

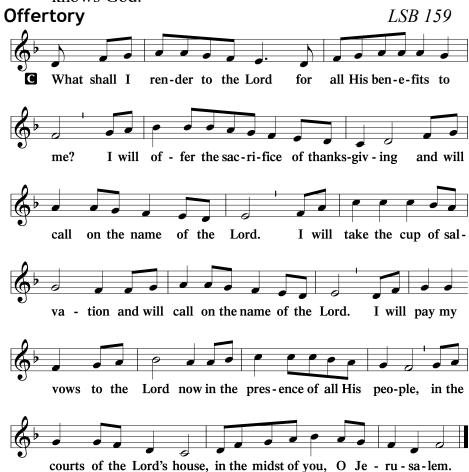
Please fulfill your obligation as a member to support the ministry that we have been given by the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. You can drop your offering envelope off in the Offering Box in the Narthex as you leave today, mail us your envelope, give on-line at our website, or drop it off in the offering box in the lobby across from the Church Office Monday – Friday 9 AM-1 PM.



## Offering Verse: 4:7

#### 1 John

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.



Please be seated

## Prayer of the Church

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.

- P For thankfulness, that our heavenly Father would strengthen our faith by the remembrance that Jesus took on a heart and hands to go to the cross, that our hearts might be pure and our hands clean before Him, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **P** ...let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Almighty God, You have given Your Son, born of Mary, to be the Savior of the world. Send Your Spirit and abide with us, that we might confess that Jesus is the Savior of the world and abide in Your love until He comes again in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Please stand as you are able

## Service of the Sacrament

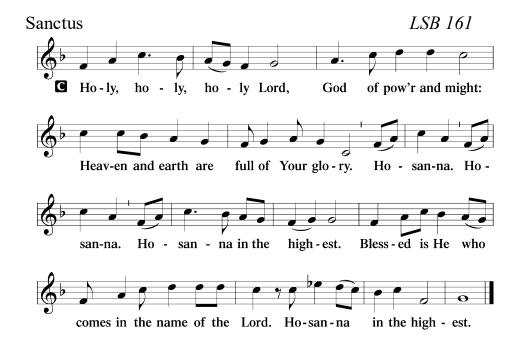
Preface LSB 160

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

### Proper Preface (Full)

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:



#### 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."

#### **Proclamation of Christ**

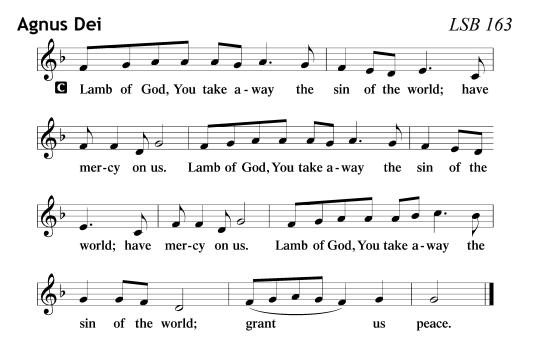
- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

#### Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini LSB 163

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Please be seated

#### **Distribution**

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

### Right Column

LSB 164

The true body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

The true blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.** 

22

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

#### Table Dismissal

bright and

P Depart now in His joy and peace, knowing that all of your sins have been forgiven.



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."

may

with

us

His

glo

ry

share.

- 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.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, A quiet chamber set apart

You

fair,

For You to dwell within my heart.

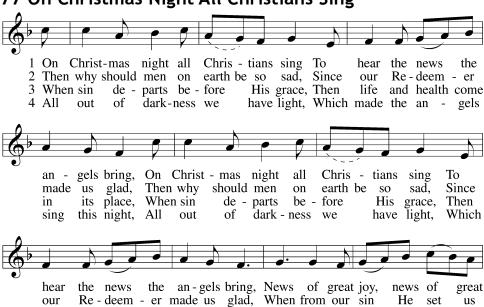
15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n! While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Text and tune: Public domain

may

and peace to

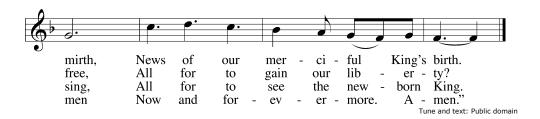






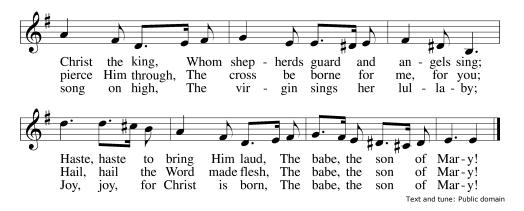
and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy

made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God



## 370 What Child Is This A Lamb of God Favorite





#### The Dismissal

- 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.

## Christmas Eve Candle Lighting

## Distribution of the Light

[During the Lighting of the Candles, "O Holy Night" is played in the background)

(The Pastor lights a candle from the Christ Candle. The Ushers then light their candles from the Pastor's candle. The Ushers then light the candles of the worshipers in each row who are nearest the aisle.)

Note: Lighted Candles should not be tipped to avoid wax dripping on the Pews, clothing, or the floor. Each parishioner should tip his unlit candle into the flame of

## his neighbor's candle. In this way pass the light down the row you are in.

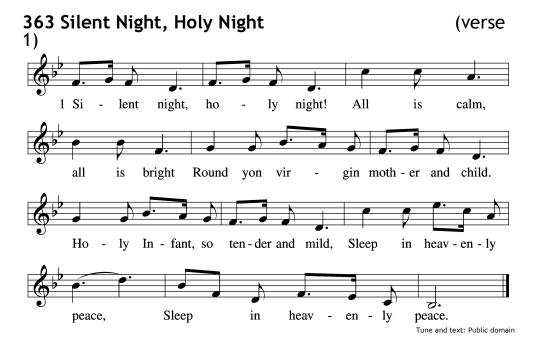
P Almighty God, Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your unspeakable gift to mankind, which is the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem, as announced by Your Holy Angels this night. May the mystery of the Word made flesh fill our souls with wonderment and yearning that, like the shepherds, we may always hurry to worship Him where He promises to be, here in His Word and Sacrament. Change our hearts this night from a busy inn that has no room for Your Son to a quiet and meditative place set aside to ponder this great gift. Help us this night to angels did as they shared the good rejoice just as the news of great joy that is for all the people. As we share the light from the Christ candle this night, may the light that is our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord burn ever brighter in our hearts so that we, like the Shepherds, might be moved to "Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

#### **C** Amen

### Luke 2:1-7

that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And 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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time <sup>27</sup> came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

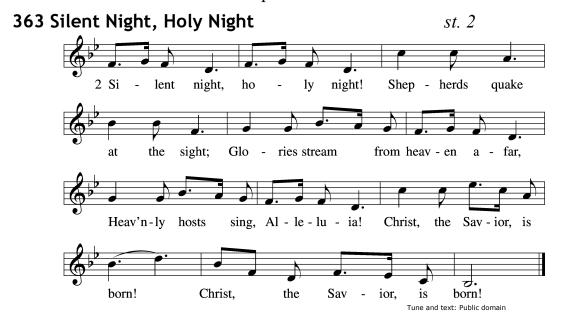


#### Luke 2:8-14

P <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,

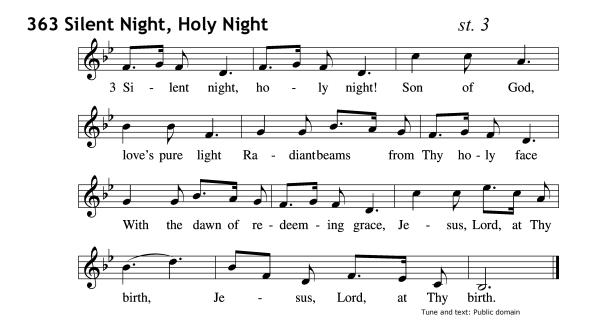
14"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"



#### Luke 2:15-20

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. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these

things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



## Close of the Service

Please Stand as you are able

Benediction LSB 166

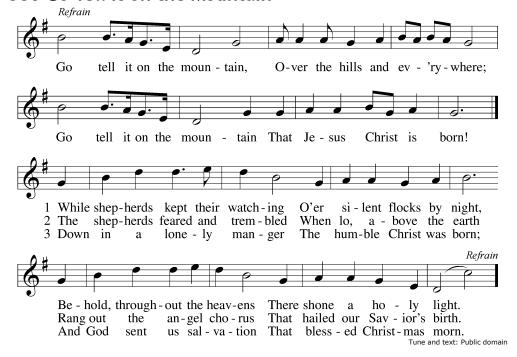
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

#### Amen.

#### Please extinguish your candles

#### 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain



### **Sharing of the Peace**

**P** The Peace of the Lord be with you always

## And also with you

P The love and the Peace of Christ Jesus, Your Savior, has been poured out upon you richly and abundantly this day. In the same manner as He has shared with you, pour out these gifts upon those around you who need to hear the Gospel from your lips and by the work of your

# Lamb Of God Lutheran Church

December 24, 2021



Christmas Eve Service 10:00 pm

