

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.

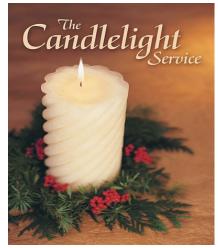
^{**} Note: For those concerned about consuming alcohol-the individual cups in the center of each tray contain diluted wine. (1 drop of wine in water) There is gluten free wafers.

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



Divine Service I Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 pm December 24, 2022

Fellowship Register

Please sign the register that you will find in the pew and pass it on to the others sitting in your pew. Guests are invited to sign the register and please include your address. Thank you.

Pre-Service Music Procession of the Cross

Entrance of the Processional Cross

P Please stand and face the Processional Cross

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!



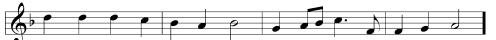
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"

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.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

As Galatians 4:3 tells us, "When we were children (before we believed), we were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world". Even now, 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

- **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.
- "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4–5). Because of the Savior who is the Word made flesh and who dwelt among us, 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 my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the "H" Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Please be seated

Service of the Word

Introit for Christmas Eve *Psalm 98:1-4 antiphon Isaiah 9:6*

- **P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
- and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- **P** and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
- Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
- His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
- **P** The LORD has made known His salvation;
- 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.
- **P** 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 beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- **P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
- and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- **P** and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
- Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Salutation

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Father in heaven, You sent forth Your Son to be born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us who were under the law. Grant that through faith we might rejoice in our baptismal adoption as Your children and our connection to Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

P The Old Testament Reading is from Daniel, the seventh chapter.

⁹As I looked,

thrones were placed,
and the Ancient of days took his seat;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames;
its wheels were burning fire.

10 A stream of fire issued
and came out from before him;
a thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;
the court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened. . . .

¹³I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

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

Epistle Lesson:

Galatians 4:1-7

P The Epistle is from Galatians, the fourth chapter.

¹I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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

Please stand as you are able

Verse for Christmas Eve:

Luke 2:11

- P Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
- **©** who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel:

John 1:1-18

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

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.

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.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Children's Message



362 O Sing of Christ



- 1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
- 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re claim, And Par a dise was barred
- 3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re-ceived; 4 Lord Je-sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored. Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred. Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved. As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son; To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove, Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace. He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won. Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love. That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002526
Tune: Public domain

Sermon: John 1:9-14 "This is My Son: Jesus"

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 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.

Please be seated

Offering and Prayers

Offering Statement

If you are a visitor, we don't want you to feel obligated to give an offering, we are just glad that you have joined us for worship this day. Those who would like to give an offering may drop it off in the Offering Box in the Narthex, the box across from the Church Office, mail their Offering Envelope in, or use our online giving portal from our website.

Offertory Anthem: 387 Joy to the World Hallelujah Ringers

Prayer of the Church

P We come before our Lord in prayer in the name of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, the Son of Man and the Son of God.

Heavenly Father, we rejoice at the coming of Your Son for our salvation. Grant that we might share the Good News of Christ this Christmastime that many others find joy at the coming of Your Son to bring them life and salvation. Hear us, for the sake of Jesus,

- **©** Son of Man and Son of God.
- P ... Hear us, for the sake of Jesus,
- **©** Son of Man and Son of God.
- P We pray these things through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,
- Son of Man and Son of God. Amen.

Please stand as you are able

Service of the Sacrament

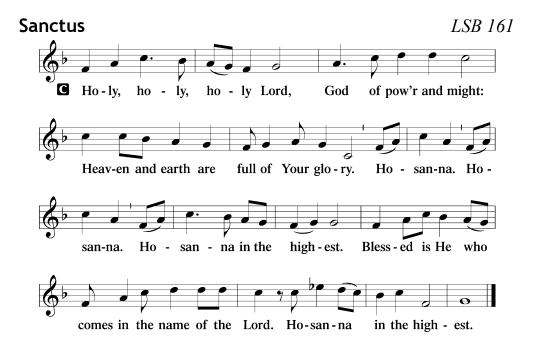
Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **⚠** 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

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

- P 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:

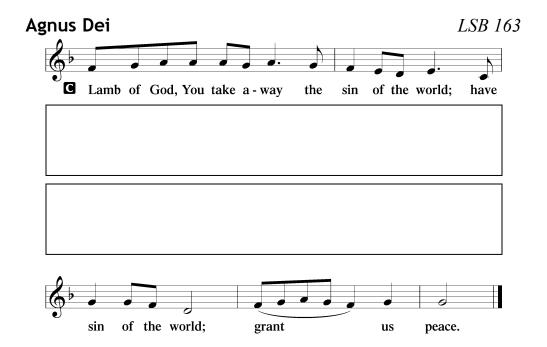
Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini

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



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:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given for you.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for you..

Amen.

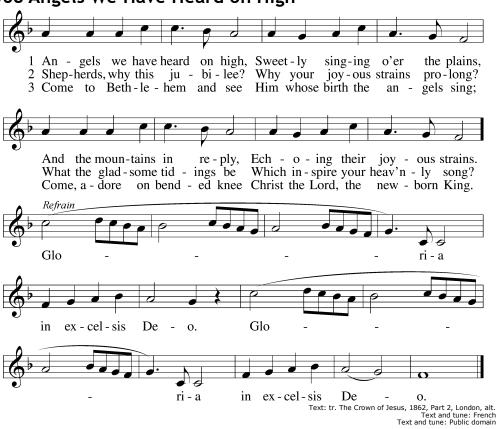
In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

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

Distribution Hymns



368 Angels We Have Heard on High





370 What Child Is This

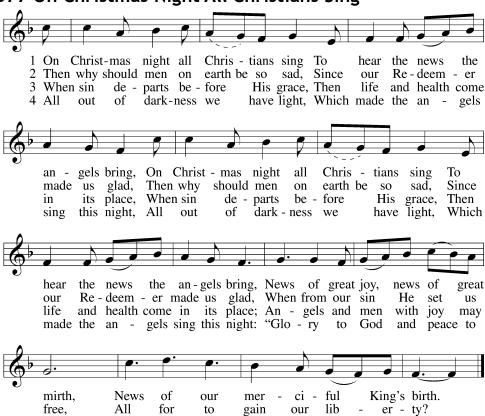








377 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing



Text and tune: English Text and tune: Public domain

born King.

A - men.

Table Prayer

sing,

men

All

Now

for

and

to

P May this, the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in your faith to life everlasting.

see

the

new -

er - more.

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.

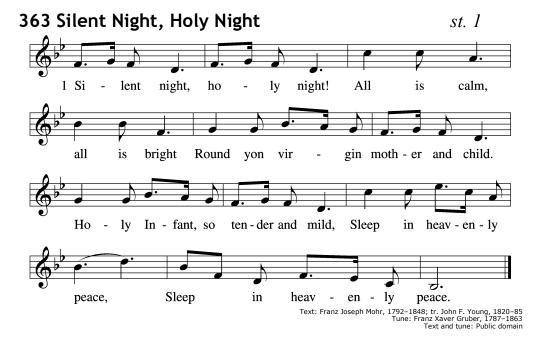
Help us this night to rejoice just as the angels did as they shared the good news of great joy that is for all the people. As we share the light from the Christ candle this night, may the light that is our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord burn ever brighter in our hearts so that we, like 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.

G Amen

Luke 2:1-7

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.

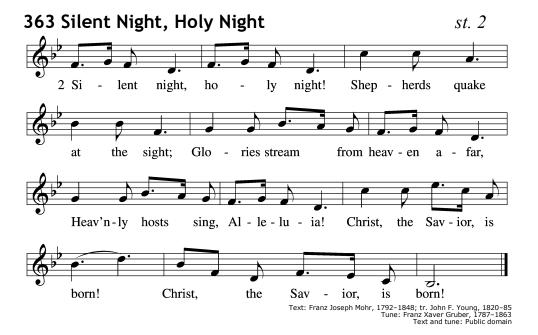




Luke 2:8-14

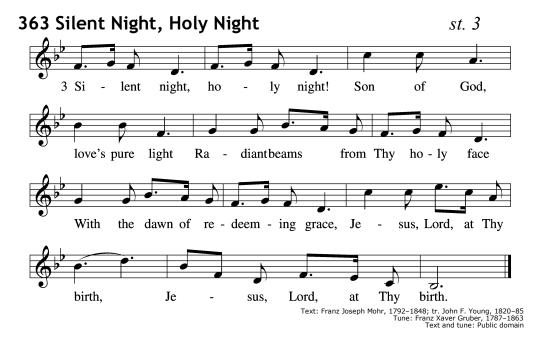
⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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!"



Luke 2:15-20

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.



Close of Service

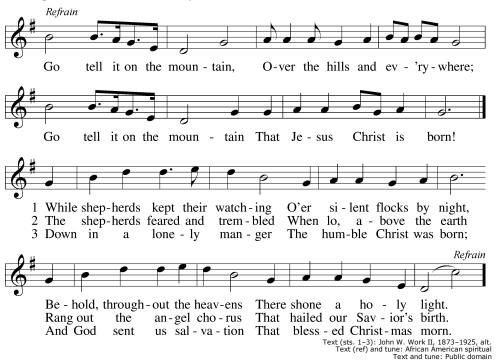
Please stand as you are able

Benediction

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 hands. In doing so we serve in the world as His Church.

Closing Peace
P Go in peace, serve the Lord
Thanks be to God

Acknowledgments

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 © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Sermon Notes							
							, , , , , ,





Lamb Of God Lutheran Church

December 24, 2022 + 10:00 pm



Christmas Eve Worship Service

