

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2022

HOLY COMMUNION

TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS: We receive the Lord's Supper, believing the Word of Jesus, that He gives into our mouths His true body and blood, miraculously united to the bread and wine, to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His Word, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love one another, even as He forgives and loves us.

God's Word teaches us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm, and that this Holy Communion is a confession of the faith that is confessed in this church. Therefore any who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or are members of a congregation not in the fellowship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to commune, are asked to kindly speak with the pastor ahead of time. (*Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:17-34*)

The Order of the Holy Communion

+ **Prelude**

+ **Hymn of Invocation** – “Oh, How Joyfully” (*see insert*)

+ **The Invocation** – pg. 15 (*stand*)

+ **The Corporate Confession of Sins and Absolution** pg. 15-16

+ **INTROIT** *Ps 98:1–4; antiphon: Is. 9:6*

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.

*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.*

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.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

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.

+ The Gloria Patri – pg. 16

+ The Kyrie – pg. 17

+ Hymn #83 “Hark! What Mean Those Holy Voices”
(in place of The Gloria om Excelsis)

+ The Salutation – pg. 19

+ The Collect for the Day

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.

Amen.

+ The Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good
news,
who publishes peace, who brings good
news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they
lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

+ The Epistle – Hebrews 1:1-6

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

+ The Triple Hallelujah, pg. 20

+ The Gospel Versus, pg. 20-21

+ The Holy Gospel – John 1:1-14 (*stand*)

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

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

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

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

+ **The Nicene Creed – pg. 22**

+ **Sermon Hymn – #136**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

+ **Sermon – “Worship the Firstborn”**

Hebrews 1:6

I. As the eternal Son of God

II. As the Savior of Mankind

+ **Hymn #98** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (*in place of The Offertory*)

+ **Offerings**

Vocal Duet “King of Kings”

(*You may follow the text on the insert*)

+ **The Prayer of The Church**

+ **The Preface ~ The Agnus Dei – pp. 24-28**

+ **Distribution Hymns**

#76 - “A Great and Mighty Wonder”

LSB #374 - “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (*see insert*)

#92 - “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

+ **The Nunc Dimittis – pg. 29**

+ **The Thanksgiving –pg. 30**

+ **Post-Communion Collect – pg. 31**

+ **The Salutation & The Benedicamus pg. 31**

+ **The Benediction – pg. 31**

+ **Closing Hymn – #87**

“Joy to the World, The Lord is Come”

+ SOLI DEO GLORIA +

DAILY READINGS: December 25: Is. 49:1–18; Matt. 1:1–17; 26: Is. 49:22–26; 50:4–51:8, 12–16; Matt. 1:18–25; 27: Is. 51:17–52:12; Matt. 2:1–12; 28: Is. 52:13–54:10; Matt. 2:13–23; 29: Is. 55:1–13; Luke 1:1–25; 30: Is. 58:1–59:3, 14–21; Luke 1:26–38; 31: Is. 60:1–22; Luke 1:39–56.

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