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Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - *Christ's Love, Our Calling*.

# Welcome to all of our visitors and members! Merry Christmas Come worship with us again soon.

If you are a guest today, please let us know of any way we might serve you.



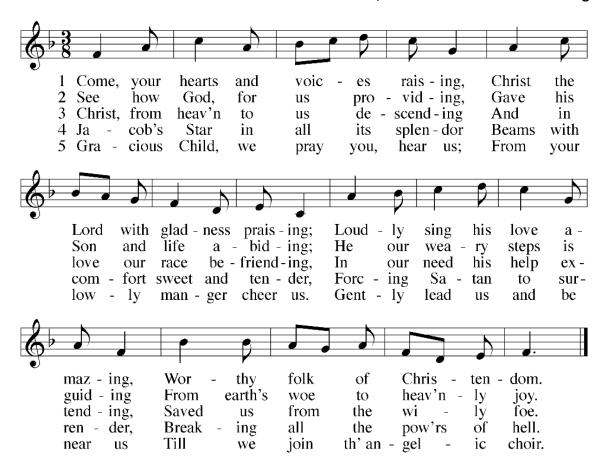
#### **Lord of Love Lutheran Church**

## **Christmas Day Worship**

**December 25, 2022** 

#### OPENING HYMN

CW 42: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941. Tune: QUEM PASTORES (88 87) *Ein Schlesich singebüchlein*, Breslau, 1555.

M: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

C: his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

M: The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

C: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;

M: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;

M: make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,

C: with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

M: Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

C: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

M: let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

M: Christ came that we might be reconciled to God through him. Let us, therefore, confess our sins and hear again the good news of sins forgiven.

M and C: (CW 27:1-2, spoken)
O Jesus, Lamb of God, you are
My comfort and my guiding star;
I come, a sinner, trustingly
And bring my many sins with me.

O Lord, my sin indeed is great; I groan beneath the dreadful weight. Be merciful to me, I pray; Take guilt and punishment away.

## (Moment of silent prayer to confess specific sin and guilt that may especially be troubling and peace-robbing)

M: (CW 53:3-4, spoken)

Oh, 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.

What harm can sin and death then do? The true God now abides with you. Let hell and Satan storm and rave, Christ is your brother – you are safe.

#### **RESPONSE**

#### CW 63: Angels We Have Heard on High

After omitting the Gloria for the weeks of Advent, the Church bursts forth in the song of the angels: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth!



### **63**

## **Angels We Have Heard on High**



Text: Nouveau recueil de cantiques, 1855; tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London, 1862, alt.

Tune: GLORIA (77 77 with Refrain) Nouveau recueil de cantiques, 1855.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY FOR THE FESTIVAL

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

#### THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE FESTIVAL

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,

who proclaims peace and preaches good news,
who proclaims salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God is king!"

8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.
Together they shout for joy,
because with both eyes they will see it
when the LORD returns to Zion.

9 Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,
because the LORD is comforting his people.
He is redeeming Jerusalem.

10 The LORD lays bare [a] his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

CW 34: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt. Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.

SECOND LESSON Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. <sup>2</sup> In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

<sup>4</sup> The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?

And again:

I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

Let all God's angels worship him.

<sup>7</sup> About the angels he says:

He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

<sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says:

God, your throne is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions. Text: Martin Luther, tr. Anonymous; Adapt. Michael Praetorius

All praise to thee, eternal Lord, Clothed in a garb of flesh and blood; Choosing a manger for thy throne. While worlds on worlds are thine alone.

Once did the skies before thee bow; A virgin's arms contain thee now, While angels, who in thee rejoice, Now listen for thine infant voice.

A little child, thou art our guest,
That weary ones in thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is thy birth
That we may rise to heav'n from earth.

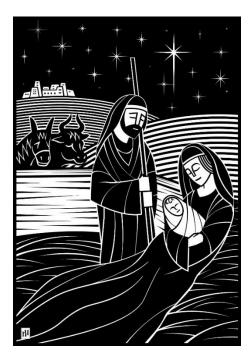
Thou comest in the darksome night
To make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine,
Like thine own angels, round thee shine.

All this for us they love hath done; By this to thee out love is won! For this we tune our cheerful lays And sing our thanks in ceaseless praise! GOSPEL LESSON John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

#### **HYMN**





## Go, Tell It on the Mountain



Text: African-American spiritual, c. 19th century, refrain; John W. Work, 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Tune: Go, Tell IT (78 76 76 76) African-American spiritual, c. 19th century, alt.

#### **MEDITATION ON JOHN 1:14**

#### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man. He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity; and though he is both God and Man, Christ is not two persons but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ. He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

#### **GATHERING OF THE THANK OFFERING**

During the gathering of the offering, please sign and pass the Friendship Register. Thank you!

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For all who celebrate the incarnation, that the knowledge that their God reigns would cause them to lift up their voices and sing for joy, now and throughout the Church Year, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

For those who publish peace and bring good news of happiness in Christ, that they would be kept faithful to declare his reign; and for all missionaries at home and abroad, that all the ends of the earth may see his salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

For confidence to tell the joyful message of our Savior, just as Mary, Joseph and common shepherds first believed and proclaimed his incarnation, that the Holy Spirit may work the miracle of faith as he wills, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

For all who administer and judge our laws in this land and for its citizens, that authority would be rightly honored and that we would be preserved from rulers who spurn God's calling to serve justly, show hostility to his truth or persecute his Church, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

For those who suffer sickness in mind or body, for the homebound and for all who ask our prayers, that God would grant them healing, peace, patience and faith that endures, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

For all communicants, that we may receive the great love of God that laid his Son in a manger and now lays his flesh and blood before us in bread and wine; and that we may bow our hearts before him with all those in heaven and on earth who adore him, receiving his forgiveness and life with repentance and joy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

In thanksgiving for the believers who have gone before us, especially those who have been with us during Christmases past and now live with Christ, that we may be confident in his promise of resurrection and eternal life and at last join them in his presence when his kingdom comes, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of your Son, the Word become flesh, the Savior of the nations, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. **Amen.** 

#### THE SACRAMENT (CWS, Divine Service II, p. 33-37)

#### **PREFACE**

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

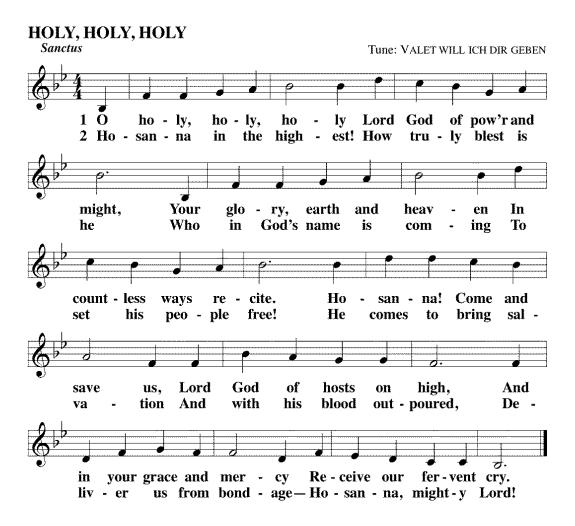
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his wondrous birth became our Brother, taking on human flesh to live in righteousness before God and to become obedient even to death on a cross.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**M:** Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

#### C: Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

#### C: Amen.

#### LAMB OF GOD





**BE SEATED** 

#### DISTRIBUTION

This congregation observes the ancient Christian practice of closed Communion. In the Lord's Supper, Christ gives His true body and blood to be eaten and drunk for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Such a precious gift is only to be received with great care and preparation. Therefore, we invite the communicant members of our congregation and of the congregations in our fellowship (in the WELS and the ELS) to receive the Sacrament. We ask guests to please speak with the pastor before partaking of the Lord's Supper with us.

CW 67: What Child is This

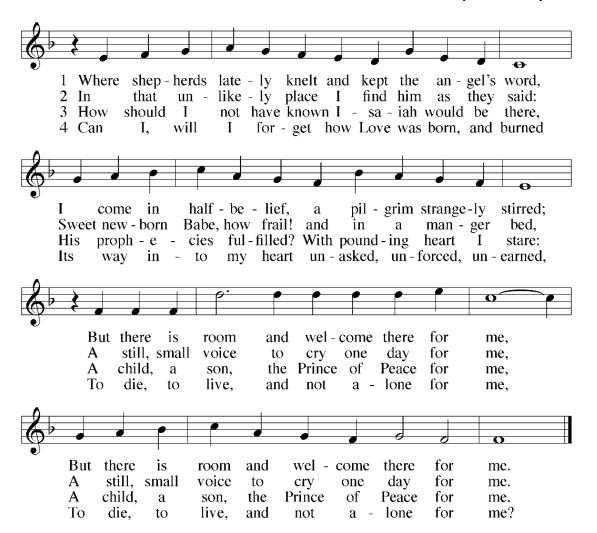
#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**





Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Greensleeves (87 87 68 67) English ballad, 16th century.

#### CW 54: Where Shepherd Lately Knelt



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: MANGER SONG (12 12 10 10) Carl. F. Schalk, b. 1929. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL., www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### (sung to the tune of CW #7)

#### SONG OF SIMEON

**Nunc Dimittis** 

O Lord, now let your servant
Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised
Incarnate, saving Word
A Light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!

All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever three-in-one;
For as in the beginning,
is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN CW 62: Joy to the World

## **62**

## Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: Antioch (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

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#### Serving us today:

Pastor Joel Jenswold

Organist: Sharon FreundTrumpet: Andy Huebner

Elder/Councilman: Mike Wilson and Steve Kalscheuer

Ushers: Sef Fox, Dave Olson and Ben OlsonCounters: Bob Degnan and Gene Freund

Altar Guild: Colleen Biwer and Donna Cotter

A/V: Jen Olson



No New Year's Eve Worship

## New Year's Day Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 am

2023 Offering envelopes for our members are in the room to the left of the elevator.