

Christmas Day - December 25, 2023 Pastor Rob Morris

Welcome and Prelude



Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Stand

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- Improve a since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

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.

Stand

Service of the Word



Once in Royal David's City Gloria in Excelsis LSB 376 Once in vid's roy al Da cit y Stood а 2 He came down to earth from heav en, Who is 3 For child hood's Day by He is our pat tern, 4 shall Through His And our eyes at last see Him, 5 Not poor, low ble With that ly sta the in Where low 1y tle shed. а moth laid her cat er God and Lord of all. And His shel was ter а grew; day like us He He was lit tle, weak, and love; that and own re - deem - ing For child so dear stand - ing Shall ox en by we see Him, but in ba - by In for His bed: Mar man ger а V sta - ble, And His cra dle was stall: With the а help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He gen - tle Lord heav'n bove; And He Is our in а heav - en. Set at God's right hand on high. Then like that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. was low - ly and mean and Lived on earth poor our Sav - ior ho - ly. glad-ness. feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our leads His chil-dren on То the place where He is gone. stars His chil-dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound! Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt. Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76 Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38

¹⁷In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰He 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. ²¹And 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....

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And 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. ³⁶Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For 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.

Psalm

Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 7

¹Why do the | nations rage* and the peoples | plot in vain? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- gether.* against the LORD and against his anointed, | saying, ³"Let us burst their | bonds apart* and cast away their | cords from us." ⁴He who sits in the | heavens laughs:* the Lord holds them in de- | rision. ⁵Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,* and terrify them in his fury, | saying, ⁶"As for me, I have | set my King* on Zion, my | holy hill." ⁷I will tell of the decree:* The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- gotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,* and the ends of the earth your pos- | session. ⁹You shall break them with a | rod of iron* and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." ¹⁰Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;* be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹Serve the | LORD with fear,*

and rejoice with | trembling. ¹²Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly | kindled.* Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

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.

Choral Anthem Infant Lowly, Infant Holy Polish

Epistle

Titus 3:4–7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he 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, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so 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



Holy Gospel

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

С 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.

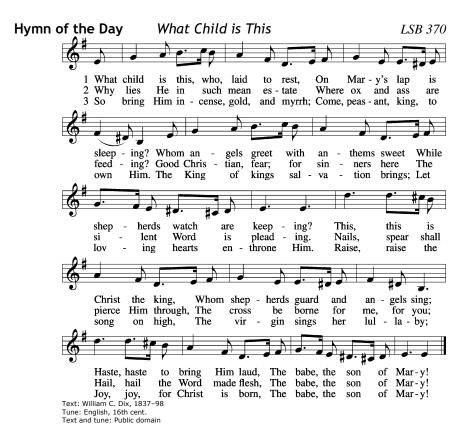
¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me."") ¹⁶And from his 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. C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Conversation with the Children



Sermon

Apostles' Creed

С

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

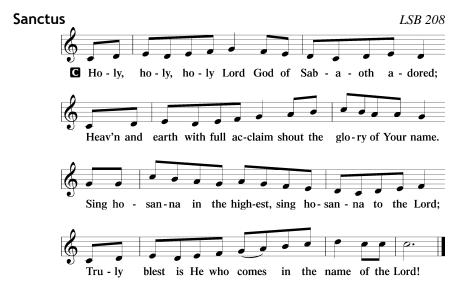
Prayer of the Church and Passing of the Peace

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

С

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.

The Words of Our Lord

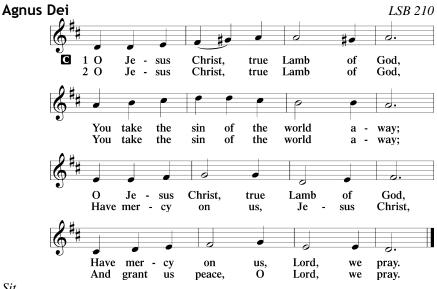
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks. He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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 vou: this cup is the new testament in Mv + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



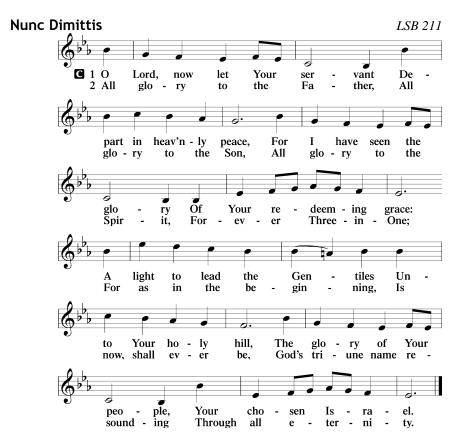


Sit

Distribution - Note Special Instructions

*Gluten-free and alcohol-free options available in the center of each serving tray: indicate to the pastor if you need one of these.

Stand



Post-Communion Collect

P 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 Amen.

Benedicamus

- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

LSB 212

Benediction

P 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.



Gentle Mary Laid Her Child Closing Hymn LSB 374 laid her child man - ger; Gen - tle Mar - y Low - ly in а 2 An - gels sang a bout His birth. Wise Men sought and found Him; 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger; There He lay, the Un - de-filed, To the world strang - er. а Heav-en's star shone bright-ly forth Glo - ry all а round Him. -He is still the Un - de-filed But no more strang - er. а He be Such babe in such place, Can the Sav - ior? а а won-drous sight, Heard the an - gels Shep-herds saw the sing - ing; of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the Son God of sto - ry; all the race Who have found His Ask the saved of fa vor. ing. All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo ry! Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859-1933 Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Today's Volunteers and Worship Staff: Reader: Christy Morris Communion Assistant: Rob Balancia and Bud Williams Acolyte: Alexa Krieg Chancel: Kirsten Balancia Communion Preparation: Rachel Williams Organist & Director of Music: Bev Thompson Assistant Organist: Elijah Morris Guitar: Peter Obre Trumpet: Gary Gollenberg