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The Nativity of our Lord † Christmas Day

December 25, 2018

LBW-Lutheran Book of Worship WOV-With One Voice

* Please stand as you are able

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *Christmas Pastorale*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(you may remain seated)*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness. God, wonderful counselor,

C we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

P God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

C Amen.

HYMN LBW # 71 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 62:6-12

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels; all day
and all night they shall never be
silent. You who remind the
LORD, take no rest

⁷and give him no rest until he
establishes Jerusalem and
makes it renowned throughout
the earth.

⁸The LORD has sworn by his right
hand and by his mighty arm: I
will not again give your grain to
be food for your enemies, and
foreigners shall not drink the
wine for which you have
labored;

⁹but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD, and those
who garner it shall drink it in my
holy courts.

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones, lift up an
ensign over the peoples.

¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the
end of the earth: Say to
daughter Zion, "See, your
salvation comes; his reward is
with him, and his recompense
before him."

¹²They shall be called, "The Holy
People, The Redeemed of the
LORD"; and you shall be called,
"Sought Out, A City Not
Forsaken."

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 97

¹The LORD reigns; let the ^l earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the ^l isles be glad

²**Clouds and darkness surround the LORD,
righteousness and justice are the foundations ^l of God's throne.**

³Fire goes before the LORD,
burning up enemies on ^l every side.

⁴**Lightnings light ^l up the world;
the earth ^l sees and trembles.**

⁵The mountains ^l melt like wax
before the Lord of ^l all the earth.

⁶**The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD,
and all the peoples ^l see your glory.**

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight ^l in false gods!
Bow down before the LORD, ^l all you Gods.

⁸**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O LORD.**

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over ^l all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰**You who love the ^l LORD, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them
from the hand ^l of the wicked.**

¹¹Light dawns ^l for the righteous,
and joy for the honest of heart.

¹²**Rejoice in the ^l LORD, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's ^l holy name.**

SECOND LESSON: Titus 3:4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly

through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand as you are able)*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

* GOSPEL: Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

¹[In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.] ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for

see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This was be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and

praising God for all they had heard
and seen, as it had been told them.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN LBW # 41 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SERMON

HYMN LBW # 54 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* *(you may remain seated)*

* **NICENE CREED** *(please stand as you are able)*

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS *(you may be seated)*

A As heaven and earth rejoice, let us pray for the needs of the church and all the world.

A brief silence.

A We give you thanks for the body of Christ in every land. Your people stand for peace and joy, like sentinels on the mountain. We pray for continued wisdom to live your will. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give thanks for this beautiful world—for waterways, deserts, forests, and prairies; for creatures large and small; for plants that feed and offer shelter. We pray for continued good care of our earth, our home. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give thanks for the many nations on earth—for people who teach us new ways to dance and to sing; for languages that help us learn new names; for unfamiliar foods and spices. We pray for a sense of adventure. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give you thanks for those who see the struggles of neighbors and offer help. We pray for newborns and the aged; for those who are in mourning and those who fight depression; for refugees and homeless people; for those with no one to accompany them in their final days; and for those we name in our hearts or aloud. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We thank you for our sisters and brothers in faith—for all people of the book; for seekers and questioners; for skeptics and the resolute. We pray that your generous Spirit will comfort and challenge us throughout the coming year. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. As you cradle your people in your merciful arms, bring us at last with all the saints into life eternal. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

* **PEACE** *(please stand as you are able)*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Silent Night*

OFFERTORY

Then entered in those Wise Men three, Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

* LORD'S PRAYER *(please stand as you are able)*

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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**

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

HYMN LBW # 70 *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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Serving Today

Officiating - Pastor Dana Bjorlin

Worship & Music Coordinator & Organist - Angela Tonjes

Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning

Lay Assistant - Betty Mowery

Acolytes - Preston Speaks & Ashton Delaney

Altar Guild - Maxine Eickhoff & Phyllis Kloos

Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Phyllis Kloos (419-260-6582) or
phyllis_kloos@yahoo.com

Poinsettias

Thanks to all who purchased the beautiful poinsettias this year! Please take your plant home after worship today. **PLEASE be sure to take the correct plant — labels with names are attached to each plant.**