

Christmas Day
December 25, 2020

Order of Service

[Please stand for parts marked with *]

Prelude: "Meditation on "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ... James Southbridge

* Opening Hymn:

"Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" [LSB 375 v. 1, 2, 5]

1)Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising; Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.	2)Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in love our race befriending; In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.
5)Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing, And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free.	

*Confession & Absolution [LSB 184]

P. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

P. Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C. who made heaven and earth.

P. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C. and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P. O almighty God, merciful Father,

C. I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me a poor sinful being.

P. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

*Introit:

Ps.98:1-4; antiphon: Is 9:6

P. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C. and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

P. and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C. Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P. Oh 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.

P. The Lord has made known his salvation;

C. he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

C. break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

*ALL

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.

*Hymn: “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” [LSB 378 v. 1, 3]

1) Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, And usher in the morning. Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, The day of grace is dawning. This Child, though weak in infancy, Our confidence and joy shall be, The pow'r of Satan breaking, Our peace with God now making.	3) All blessing, thanks, and praise to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, be given: Thou hast my Brother deigned to be, Thou Lord of earth and heaven. Help me throughout this day of grace To praise Thy love and seek Thy face; And when I stand before Thee Forever to adore Thee.
--	--

*Welcome & Prayer

ALL

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

First Reading: **Isaiah 52:7-10**

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

Epistle Lesson: **Hebrews 1:1-6**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but 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. He 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For 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”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

*Alleluia [LSB 190]



*Gospel Lesson: **John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to

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

***Creed – Nicene Creed (back page of *LSB*)**

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

***Hymn of the Day: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” [*LSB* 361]**

<p>1)O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The ever-lasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.</p>	<p>2)For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth, And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!</p>
<p>3)How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav’n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.</p>	<p>4) O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!</p>

Sermon

*Offertory: “**Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn**” [LSB 391]

**Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn,
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory!
His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption’s story!
My soul, extol
God’s great favor;
Bless Him ever
For salvation;
Give Him praise and adoration!**

Prayer of the Church

*Service of The Sacrament [LSB 194]

Preface

Sanctus [LSB 195]

Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

Agnus Dei [LSB 198]

Distribution ... “O Come, Little Children” ... Ethan Brown, violin

*Post Communion: “**Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**” [LSB 386 v. 1-2]

Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav’n our voice; He from whom joy stream-eth Poor in a manger lies; Not so brightly beam-eth The sun in yonder skies. Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!	Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee. Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child; Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild, Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!
--	--

*Post Communion Collect

*Benediction [LSB 202]

P. The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C. Amen, amen, amen

*Closing Hymn: “**Let All Together Praise Our God**” [LSB 389 v. 1, 2, 6, 7]

1)Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne; Today He opens heav’n again To give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.	2)He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne, Is born an infant small, And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.
6)He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise; The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise, To God our praises rise.	7)Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

Postlude: “Now Sing We, Now, Rejoice” ... Bach