



And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God

## **THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**DECEMBER 26, 2021**

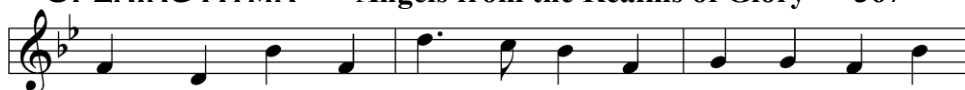
The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation with confidence in the Words of our Lord Jesus, who gives not only bread and wine but his true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor 11:27-29). Reception of Holy Communion here at Concordia is a public confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Those who are not yet baptized, instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We stand.*

### OPENING HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory” 367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
 △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

## INVOCATION

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

**C Amen.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.*

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

P 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.**

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You give us through Jesus. Help us to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Your Son. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.**

P Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained servant of our newborn King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Thank You, Jesus! Amen.**

## SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C and also with you.**

P Let us pray,

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*We sit.*

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15**

The LORD said to Moses, “Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . .

“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

ℒ This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE LESSON**

**Colossians 3:12-17**

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

ℒ This is the Word of the Lord.

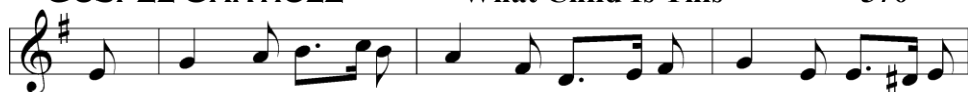
**C Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

## “What Child Is This”

370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and

the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation  
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

☞ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**☩ Praise to You, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to Thee.  
 3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth      Poor in a man - ger lies;  
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,      O pure and ho - ly Child;  
 Death was reign - ing o'er us      Through sin and van - i - ty  
 Where the an - gels sing - ing      With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth      The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer - it,      Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o - pened for us      A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing      In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to Thee!      Draw me un - to Thee!  
 May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!  
 Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON “Hold Him Close” Pastor Michael Geml

*We stand.*

### NICENE CREED

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

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### PREFACE

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**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.



## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, our newborn King, for You have prepared us for heaven and given us peace with God through Your birth, life, death, and resurrection. In the beginning, all of creation was created through You, and in the fullness of time You were born of Mary and presented in the temple to Simeon.

As we gather here in Your name, we seek the peace and promise of Your forgiveness that You offer freely in this Meal of Your body and blood given and shed for us. Graciously receive our prayers; lead and guide us to walk according to Your will and Your ways. To You alone, O Jesus, be all glory, honor, and worship, as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

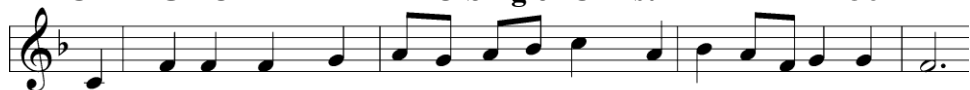
C And also with you.

*We sit.*

### DISTRIBUTION

### “O Sing of Christ”

362



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,  
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred  
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;  
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.  
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.  
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.  
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace  
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;  
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,  
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.  
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.  
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.  
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004222  
Tune: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

*Psalms 106:1b*

P Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

C His steadfast love endures forever.

P Let us pray.

We thank You, our newborn King, for You have given us the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Let Your Word and this Meal dwell within us richly, empowering us to live lives as Your chosen ones—lives lived with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience as we bear with one another in love and forgive others as You forgive us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## BENEDICTION

### CLOSING HYMN

### “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
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 a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Tune and text: Public domain

## POSTLUDE