

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020

8:00 p.m.

Blessed Nativity of Our Lord! “There was no help for us until the only Son of the Father in His unfathomable goodness had come down from heaven to help us.” - Martin Luther. Welcome to the Divine Service. Guests desiring to commune are asked to speak to the Pastor. For the spiritual care and welfare of all we practice closed communion.

Order of Service

Divine Service Setting Three, Hymnal p. 184

Please follow the order of service printed in the hymnal beginning on page 184. The propers for the day (readings, hymns) are listed below.

Hymn of Invocation

380

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Introit *sung by the choir; the congregation sings the Gloria Patri*

Antiphon

When all was still, and it was | midnight, *
Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from
the | royal throne.

Psalm

(Ps. 2:1-2, 4-6)

Why do the | nations rage, *
and the people plot a | vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel to- | gether, *
against the Lord and against His A | nointed,
He who sits in the heav- | ens shall laugh; *
the Lord shall hold them in de- | rision.
Then He shall speak to them | in His wrath, *
and distress them in His deep dis- | pleasure:
“Yet I have | set My King *
on My holy hill of | Zion.”

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

(Antiphon is repeated.)

Old Testament Reading**Isaiah 2:9-7**

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.”

Joy, joy, joy, My heart is filled with joy!
 The God of love has left his throne,
 Made this humble world his own,
 Joy, joy, joy, My heart is filled with joy!

Choral Response

“O Bethlehem”

Traditional Carol/Text and arrangement by Carl Schalk

O Bethlehem! See your glory shines so brightly, O Bethlehem. You are raised up with favor divine, You are chosen, yours the favor, Chosen of God to cradle the Savior, O Bethlehem!	O Bethlehem! Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, O Bethlehem. Then the glorious Easter morn, Conquering death, its bondage breaking, Christ victorious, new life awaking, O Bethlehem!
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O Bethlehem! Here at last we see the Promised One, O Bethlehem. Let us give praise with joyful hearts. He has opened heav’n before us, Come let us join the heav’nly chorus, O Bethlehem!	O Bethlehem! Now with the shepherds We, too, worship, O Bethlehem. He who made the heav’n and earth, O wondrous birth, the Lord of all, Born a child in manger stall, O Bethlehem!
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Epistle**Titus 2:11-14**

The grace of God has appeared to bring salvation to all.

*Stand and face the reading of the Holy Gospel***Hymn before the Holy Gospel****368**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Holy Gospel**Luke 2:1-20**

The Birth of Christ in Bethlehem

Hymn of the Day**Back page of Bulletin**

“O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”

*Choir sings stanzas 2 and 4***Choral Offertory**

“Still, Still, Still arr. Philip Ledger

Still, still, still, Let all the world be still,
 For Mary lays her son to rest,
 Sings to him softly at her breast,
 Still, still, still, Let all the world be still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby, sleep,
 The angels all rejoice and sing,
 Heav’n for your delight shall ring,
 Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby, sleep.

Distribution Hymns

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” <i>Choir sings stanza 3</i>	377
“Away in a Manger” <i>Congregation sings all stanzas accompanied by the choir</i>	365
“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”	374
“The People That in Darkness Sat”	412

The Candle Ceremony

After the singing of the final distribution hymn, the pastors will bring the light of Christ to the first person in each pew on the center aisle. Each parishioner should light their candle by tipping the unlit candle into the lit candle of their neighbor until all the candles are lit. Do not tip lighted candles. Allow the candles to burn through the conclusion of the service and the singing of Silent Night.

***Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
 the Light no darkness can overcome.***

Hymn to Depart**363**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

After the service, extinguish your candles, keep them upright, and place them into the receptacle held by the ushers at the entrance to the nave.