

The earliest moon of wintertime
 is not so round and fair
 As was the ring of glory
 around the infant there.
 And when the shepherds then drew near
 the angel voices rang out clear:
 Jesus your King is born! Jesus is born!
 Glory be to God on high!

O children of the forest free,
 the angels' song is true.
 The holy child of earth and heav'n
 is born today for you.
 Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
 who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
 Jesus your King is born! Jesus is born!
 Glory be to God on high!

Distribution Hymns

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” **380**
 “Away in a Manger” **365**
 “Angels We Have Heard on High” **368**
 “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” **377**

Hymn to Depart

“Silent Night, Holy Night” **363**

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Blessed Nativity of Our Lord! “Hear! The Conqueror has spoken:
 ‘Now the foe, sin and woe, death and hell are broken!’ God is man, man
 to deliver, and the Son now is one with our blood forever.” – Paul
 Gerhardt. 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 Two, Hymnal p. 167

*Please follow the order of service printed in the hymnal beginning on
 page 167. The propers for the day (readings, hymns) are listed below.*

Preservice Music

“Now, on Land and Sea Descending” by Michael Burkhardt

Now, on land and sea descending,
 Brings the night its peace profound;
 Let our vesper hymn be blending
 With the holy calm around.
 Jubilate! (Rejoice!) Amen!

Stand and face processional cross

Processional Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

379

Introit *sung by the choir*

Antiphon *(Liturgical Text)*

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

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

Why do the nations rage, *
 and the peoples plot in vain?
 The kings of the earth set themselves,
 and the rulers take counsel together, *
 against the LORD and against His Anointed.

He who sits in the heavens laughs; *
the Lord holds them in derision.
Then He will speak to them in His wrath, *
and terrify them in His fury, saying:
“As for Me, I have set My King *
on Zion, My holy hill.”
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.

(Antiphon is repeated.)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

Choral Response

“In Dulci Jubilo” by Ian Higginson

In dulci júbilo (In sweet rejoicing)

Let us our homage shew;

Our heart’s joy reclineth,

In praesepio (In manger stall)

And like a bright star shineth,

Matris in gremio. (In the mother’s lap)

Alpha es et O, (You are first and last)

Alpha es et O.

O Jesu parvule! (O tiny Jesus)

I yearn for Thee alway!

Hear me, I beseech Thee,

O Puer optime! (O excellent Boy)

My prayer let it reach Thee,

O Princeps gloriae! (O Prince of glory)

Trahe me post te, (Draw me after You)

Trahe me post te.

O Patris caritas, (O Father’s Love)

O Nati lenitas! (O born in meekness)

Deeply were we stained,

Per nostra crimina; (by way of our crimes)

But Thou hast for us gained,

Coelorum gaudia. (the joys of heaven)

O that we were there,

O that we were there!

Ubisunt gaudia, (Where are the joys)

If that they be not there?

There are angels singing,

Nova cantica, (New songs)

There the bells are ringing,

In Regis curia: (In the King’s court)

O that we were there,

O that we were there!

Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

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

Stand and face the processional cross.

Alleluia Verse *sung by the choir*

Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David

(Luke 2:11)

a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

The Birth of Christ in Bethlehem

Hymn of the Day

360

“All My Heart Again Rejoices”

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Choral Offertory

“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” by Robert A. Hobby

’Twas in the moon of wintertime

when all the birds had fled.

That God, the Lord of all the earth,

sent angel choirs instead.

Before their light the stars grew dim,

and wond’ring hunters heard the hymn:

Jesus your King is born! Jesus is born!

Glory be to God on high!