

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Member Parish of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod since 1908
2200 Lee Street (in Five Points) Columbia, South Carolina

The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day 25 December 2025

Today's Hymns

<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	LSB 384
<i>We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth</i>	LSB 382
<i>Offertory Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	LSB 621
<i>A Great and Mighty Wonder</i>	LSB 383
<i>O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild</i>	LSB 546
<i>O Savior of Our Fallen Race</i>	LSB 403
<i>Joy to the World</i>	LSB 387

+ Psalm

Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 7

1Why do the | nations rage*

and the peoples | plot in vain?

2The kings of the earth set themselves,

and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*

against the Lord and against his anointed, | saying,

3“Let us burst their | bonds apart*

and cast away their | cords from us.”

4He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*

the Lord holds them in de- | rision.

5Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*

and terrify them in his fury, | saying,

6“As for me, I have | set my King*

on Zion, my | holy hill.”

7I will tell of | the decree:*

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;

today I have be- | gotten you.

8Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,*

and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.

9You shall break them with a | rod of iron*

and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”

10Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*

be warned, O rulers | of the earth.

11Serve the | Lord with fear,*

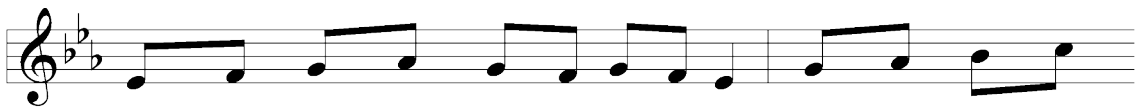
and rejoice with | trembling.

12Kiss the Son,

lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,

for his wrath is quickly | kindled.*

Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 △ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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.**

Kneel

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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.**

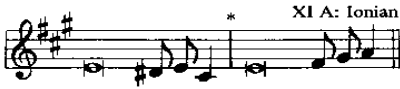
P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

+ INTROIT

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6



For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

**and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

**The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!**

**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.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

+ Kyrie

**G Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

LSB 186

+ Gloria in Excelsis**P** Glory be to God on high:**G** and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.****O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.****O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;****O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,****that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.****Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.****Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.****For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.****Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,****art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.****+ Salutation and Collect of the Day****P** The Lord be with you.**G** And with thy spirit.**P** Let us pray. 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.**G** Amen.*Sit***+ Old Testament Reading***Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38*

In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses.... Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

A This is the Word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God.



Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!*

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.

This is the LORD's | doing;*

it is marvelous | in our eyes.

+ Epistle

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

+ Alleluia and Verse

A holy day has dawned up- | on us.*

Come, all you nations, and wor | ship the Lord.

P The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First chapter.

G **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

+ **HOLY GOSPEL**.....*John 1:1-18*

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 enlightens 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. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise be to Thee, O Christ**

**☩ 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.**

382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth



1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You
 2 Now in the man - ger we may see God's Son from e -
 3 The vir - gin Mar - y's lul - la - by Calms the in - fant
 4 The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to



came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy
 ter - ni - ty, The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne
 Lord Most High. Up - on her lap con - tent is He
 gleam a - new; His beams have pierced the core of night,



And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who keeps the earth and sky and sea. Al - le - lu - ia!
 He makes us chil - dren of the light. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 The very Son of God sublime
 Entered into earthly time
 To lead us from this world of
 cares
 To heaven's courts as blessèd
 heirs.

Alleluia!

6 In poverty He came to earth
 Showing mercy by His birth;
 He makes us rich in heav'nly
 ways
 As we, like angels, sing His
 praise.

Alleluia!

7 All this for us our God has done
 Granting love through His own
 Son.

Therefore, all Christendom,
 rejoice
 And sing His praise with endless
 voice.

Alleluia!

Text (st. 1): German, c. 1380; (sts. 1, 6): tr. Gregory J. Wismar, 1946; (sts. 2–7): Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 2, 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (sts. 3, 5, 7): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, 1524, Erfurt

Text (sts. 1, 3, 5–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 2, 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004801

Tune: Public domain

+ Sermon

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

+ Offering

Stand

+ Prayer of the Church

383 A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

+ Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

+ Sanctus

LSB 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

+ Lord's Prayer

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.

+ The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

+ Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

+ Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

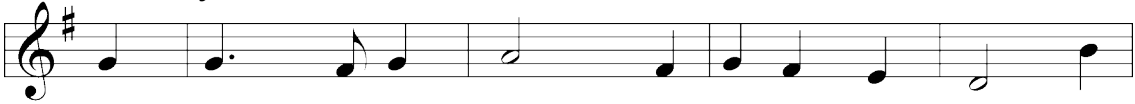
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

+ Distribution

+ **Distribution Hymn:** 546 *O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild*



1 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! For
2 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! With
3 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! Joy



sin - ners You be - came a child. You came from
God we now are rec - on - ciled. You have for
fills the world which sin de - filed. What - e'er we



heav - en down to earth In hu - man flesh through
all the ran - som paid, Your Fa - ther's righ - teous
have be - longs to You; O keep us faith - ful,



hu - man birth. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
an - ger stayed. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
strong, and true. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Frieda Pietsch, 1904–82, alt.

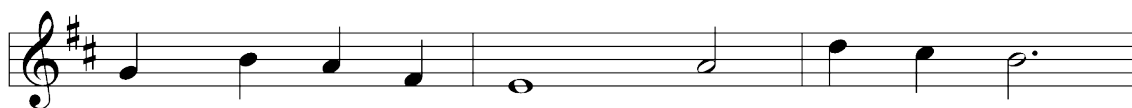
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln

Text and tune: Public domain

403 O Savior of Our Fallen Race



1 O Sav - ior of our fall - en race, O Bright - ness
 2 O Je - sus, ver - y Light of Light, Our con - stant
 3 Re - mem - ber, Lord of life and grace, How once, to
 4 To - day, as year by year its light Bathes all the



of the Fa - ther's face, O Son who shared
 star in sin's deep night: Now hear the prayers
 save our fall - en race, You put our hu -
 world in ra - diance bright, One pre - cious truth



the Fa - ther's might Be - fore the world knew
 Your peo - ple pray Through - out the world this
 man ves - ture on And came to us as
 out - shines the sun: Sal - va - tion comes from



day or night, Al - le - lu - ia!
 ho - ly day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Mar - y's son. Al - le - lu - ia!
 You a - lone. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 For from the Father's throne You came,
 His banished children to reclaim;
 And earth and sea and sky revere
 The love of Him who sent You here.

Alleluia!

6 And we are jubilant today,
 For You have washed our guilt away.
 O hear the glad new song we sing
 On this, the birthday of our King!
 Alleluia!

D 7 O Christ, Redeemer virgin-born,
 Let songs of praise Your name adorn,
 Whom with the Father we adore
 And Holy Spirit evermore.
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024

Tune: Stephen R. Johnson, 1966

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+ **Nunc Dimittis**

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

+ **Thanksgiving**

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ **Salutation**

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

+ **Benedicamus**

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

+ **Benediction**

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C Amen, amen, amen.

387 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

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