

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Christmas Eve 2023

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366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366



- 1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un furled,
- 3 All you, be-neath your heav y load, By care and guilt bent low,
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold: And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world. Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow: When down in - to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."

A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing. And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing. The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing. And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt. Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- ${f P}$ In the name of the Father and of the $oldsymbol{+}$ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Opening Versicles

John 1:1-5, 14; Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God.

³All things were made through him,

and without him was not any thing made that was made.

⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴And 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.

⁶For 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.

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

Salutation and Collect

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. • Amen.

Special Music "O Holy Child of Bethlehem" POP Choir

Reading: Genesis 3:8-15

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

15 will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

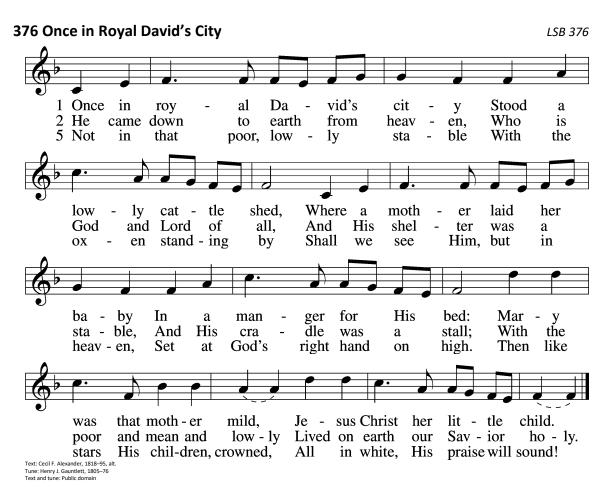
332 Savior of the Nations, Come LSB 332 1 Sav Son, ior of the tions, come, Vir gin's make na -2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood. By the Spir it 3 Here maid found with child, Yet was re - mained a a 4 Then stepped forth From the Lord of all His pure and Your home! Mar vel heav'n here now. 0 and earth, of our God. Was the Word of God made flesh vir gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown: king ly hall; God of God, ful ly yet man, That chose birth. the Lord such a Wom an's off fresh. spring, pure and God was there His throne. up on His he ro ic course be gan.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 1-2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812-76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

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Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."



Reading: Isaiah 7:14; 9:2, 6-7

Isaiah 7:14; 9:2, 6-7

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

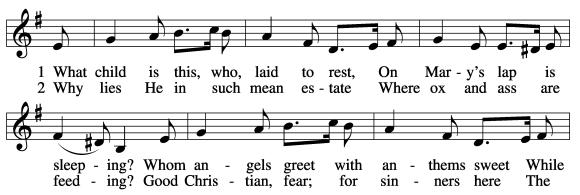
⁶For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given;
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
 and his name shall be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

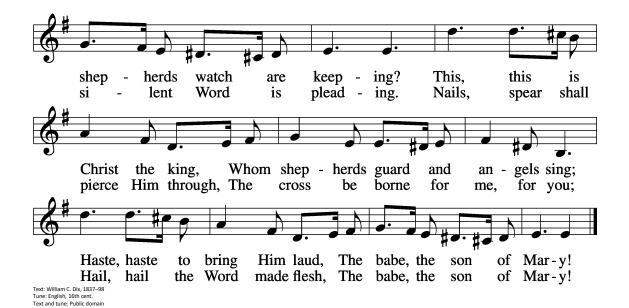
 ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
 there will be no end,
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
 to establish it and to uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time forth and forevermore.

 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

370 What Child Is This

LSB 370





Reading: Micah 5:2-5

Micah 5:2-5

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
 ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

 4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces,

7

then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;



Children's Program

Away in a Manger
Angels We Have Heard on High
Adoration by Newsboys

Reading: Luke 2:1–7

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



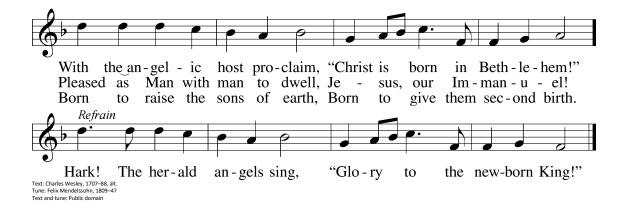
- 1 Hark! The her ald an gels sing, "Glo ry to the new born King;
- 2 Christ, by high est heav'n a dored, Christ, the ev er last ing Lord,
- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb. Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all na - tions, rise, the tri - umph of the ye Join God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty! Veiled in flesh the Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



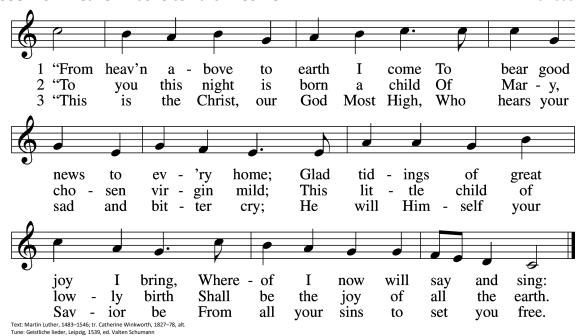
Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Luke 2:8-20

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



Apostles' Creed

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life
→ everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Reading: John 1:1-14

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He

came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

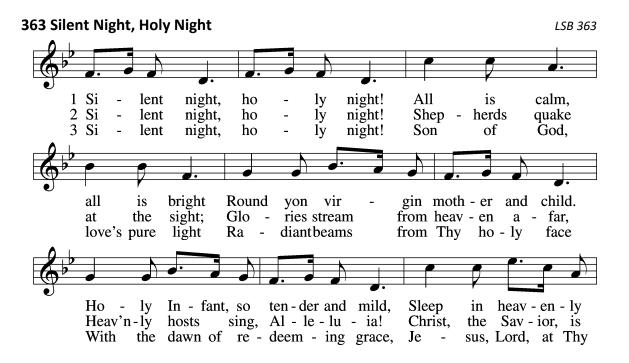


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Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; (sts. 1-4): tr. John Ma
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Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V
Text and tune: Public domain
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Offering

Candle Lighting

[The Pastor takes the light from the Christ Candle to the Worship Assistants. They pass the light on to the congregation.]

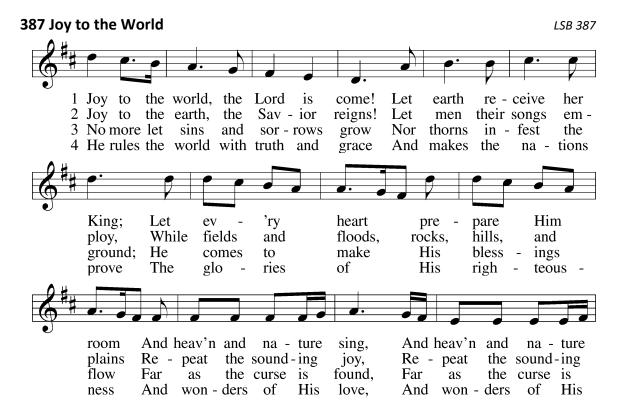




Benediction Numbers 6:24–26

C Amen.

Text and tune: Public domain





Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

The Celebration of Christ's Birth continues on Christmas Day at 9 a.m. with the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



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