

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Worship Schedule: Sunday 9:00am Education Hour: Sunday @ 10:30am

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 8am-12:00pm 507-532-4857

office@gslcmarshall.org or pastor@gslcmarshall.org www.gslcmarshall.org

Pastor: James J. Stefanic

We, the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, believing the Bible to be God's inspired and inerrant Word, acknowledging that Jesus Christ is Lord, and affirming that we are saved by Grace through faith in Him alone, offer the following as our statement of mission:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit and loving our neighbors as ourselves, we, as ambassadors for Christ, must strive to make disciples of all nations; Using the gifts the Lord has given to each of us, we must help the saints to grow in unity of faith through regular worship attendance, the partaking of the Sacraments, the study of God's Word, and by ministering to the spiritual needs of others; we will persevere in prayer and thanksgiving for all the opportunities and blessings which God places before us.

CHRISTMAS EVE December 24, 2023

Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House on this blessed and holy night. The Service of Lessons and Carols is observed this evening to focus upon the fulfillment of God's promise to send us a Savior in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to truly listen to the Lord tonight as He speaks to you through His Holy Word and points you to the Word made flesh. May you be led to faithfully confess with confidence that this Baby is the Eternal Word of God in human flesh, who came down from heaven and was Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary in order to save you from your sins. He is our Immanuel, which means "God with us." He is the King of kings and Lord of lords who was born to die for you!

That is what Christmas is truly about — the salvation accomplished and won by Jesus Christ. May this Service of Lessons and Carols be a celebration for you of the forgiveness, life, and salvation you have through faith in Christ! Please take the time to fill out the Record of Fellowship form that is in the pew. If you are visiting with us this evening, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by signing the guest book that is in the hallway on the left as you leave the sanctuary. Thank you and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Organist – Beth Steuck Liturgist and Preacher – Pastor James Stefanic

Processional Hymn



The Invocation

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

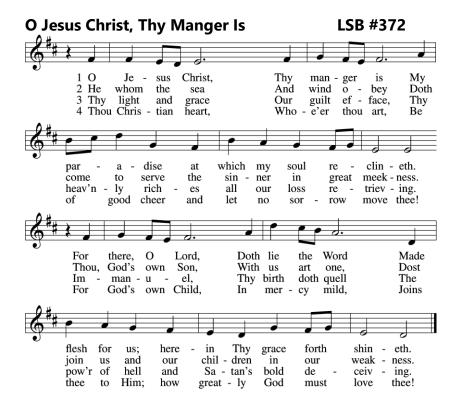
- In the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the
 Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

Opening Versicles

- L The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
- The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.
- On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
- We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.
- **L** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.



Hymn of Preparation



5 Remember thou

What glory now

The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.

The angel host

Can never boast

Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6 The world may hold

Her wealth and gold;

But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.

To Him hold fast

Until at last

A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Tune: Kenneth T. Kosche, 1947

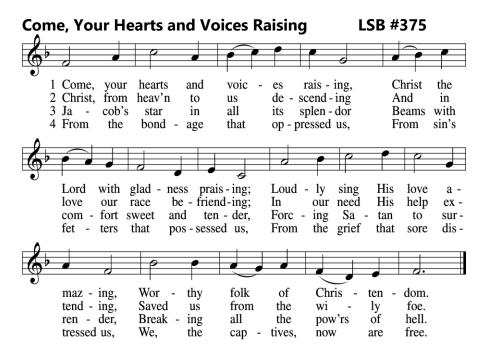
The Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- And with thy spirit.
- P Let us pray:
- P 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.

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing, And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free. 6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us, Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

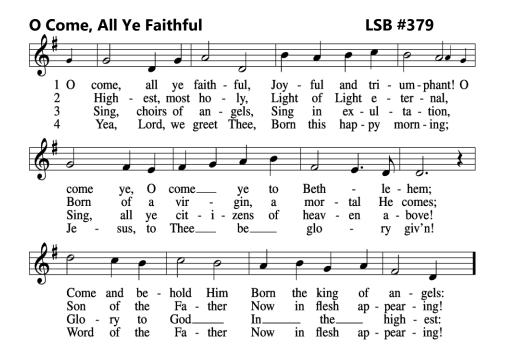
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.

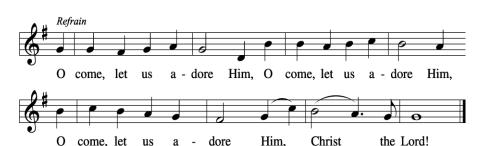
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Tune: Public domain

The Second Lesson Genesis 22:15-18

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.





Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786

us

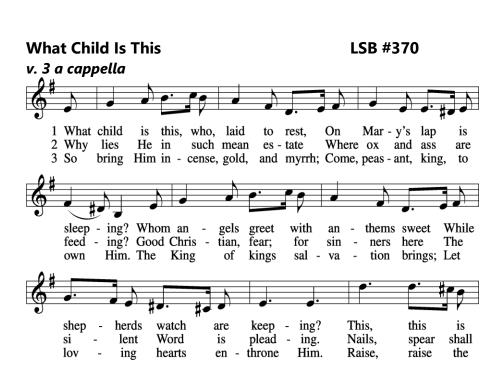
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Text and tune: Public domain

The Third Lesson

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

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- \mathbf{C} Thanks be to God.







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

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

The Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-5

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n! 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love. hu - man hearts The God im-parts to bless-ings of His heav'n. en - ter Cast out our sin, and in. Be born in to - day. us



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of whear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



hopes and fears of the years Are The all met thee to - night. in And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth! Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in. come to a - bide with us, Our Lord Im-man-u-el! us.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Text and tune: Public domain



The Fifth Lesson

I

Bless

love

all

Matthew 1:18-25

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thee, Lord

dear

the

Praise to You, O Christ.



LSB #364



Je - sus!

chil - dren

Look

in

down from

Thy

the

ten - der

sky,

care,



Louisville, alt.

Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905 Text and tune: Public domain



The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

- **L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.



LSB #376





Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt. Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76

Text and tune: Public domain

The Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

- This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ. \mathbf{C}



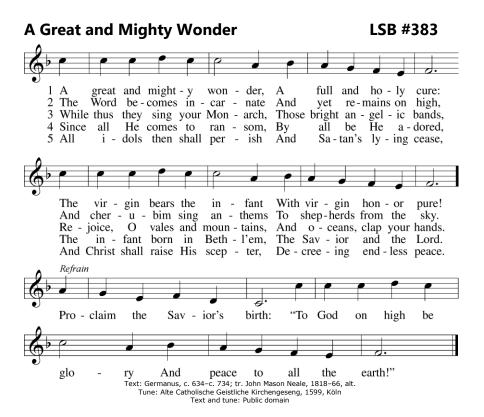
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Sermon

The Eighth Lesson

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

John 1:1-14



The Offering and Candle Lighting

As our tithes and offerings are gathered for the Lord's work, your individual candles will be lit. Remember, when you light your candles, please tip <u>only unlit</u> candles. After the offerings have been gathered and all candles have been lit, we will sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB #363





birth,

Je -

The Concluding Collect

sus, Lord, at Thy

P Let us Pray:

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

C Amen.

The Christmas Response

- P Joy to the world, the Lord is came!
- Glory to God in the highest!
- P Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and everywhere;
- **G** Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The Benediction

- P The grace of the Lord

 → Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C Amen.

The Recessional Hymn



Public domain



The Postlude

A Christmas Carol for Children by Martin Luther

Good news from heaven the angels bring, Glad tidings to the earth they sing: To us this day a child is given, To crown us with the joy of heaven.

This is the Christ, our God and Lord, Who in all need shall aid afford: He will Himself our Saviour be, From sin and sorrow set us free.

To us that blessedness He brings, Which from the Father's bounty springs: That in the heavenly realm we may With Him enjoy eternal day.

All hail, Thou noble Guest, this morn, Whose love did not the sinner scorn! In my distress Thou cam'st to me: What thanks shall I return to Thee?

Were earth a thousand times as fair, Beset with gold and jewels rare, She yet were far too poor to be A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child! Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled, Within my heart, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

Praise God upon His heavenly throne, Who gave to us His only Son: For this His hosts, on joyful wing, A blest New Year of mercy sing.