CALL TO WORSHIP “JOY TO THE WORLD”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HANDBELL ANTHEM “THE FIRST NOEL”

OPENING HYMN

 “A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER” LSB 383

1 A great and mighty wonder,
 A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
 With virgin honor pure! Refrain

ref Proclaim the Savior’s birth:
“To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!”

2 The Word becomes incarnate
 And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
 To shepherds from the sky. Refrain

3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
 Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
 And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain

4 Since all He comes to ransom,
 By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl’em,
 The Savior and the Lord. Refrain

5 All idols then shall perish
 And Satan’s lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
 Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

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

P In the name of the Father and of the T 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.**

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE LSB 186

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 18:15–19

 15“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— 16just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ 17And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. 18I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19And whoever will not listen to My words that he shall speak in My name, I myself will require it of him.’”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE Philippians 4:4–7

 4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

 19This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” 21And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” 22So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

 24(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” 28These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

APOSTLES’ CREED

C **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** T **everlasting. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN

 “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL” LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. Refrain

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

 “THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS” LSB 348

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
 And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
 And life to joy awakes.

2 Not as of old a little child,
 To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
 That lights the morning sky.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
 When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
 Despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
 Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
 And we shall see His face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
 And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
 Come quickly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
Text: Public domain

OFFERTORY LSB 192

C **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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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 . . . 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 196

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 T 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 T 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.**

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

 “LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD” LSB 352

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner’s help and friend.

2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets’ heart inspired,
What they longed for many\_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.

3 Abram’s promised great reward,
Zion’s helper, Jacob’s Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.

4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.

5 Bruise for me the serpent’s head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

 “O SAVIOR, REND THE HEAVENS WIDE” LSB 355

1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.

2 O Father, light from heaven send;
As morning dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
To Jacob’s line rain down the King.

3 O earth, in flow’ring bud be seen;
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare,
Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.

4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
When will You come with comfort strong?
O come, O come, Your throne forego;
Console us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore
Forever and forevermore.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt.
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P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.

C **Amen.**

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

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

C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

P 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.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

BENEDICAMUS LSB 202

P 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 T give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

 “THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME” LSB 356

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.”
 Gloria!

2 “For know a blessèd mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.”
 Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady,
 Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.”
 Gloria!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924; Basque, c. 18th cent.
Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in God's peace; love and serve your neighbor!

C **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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