

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

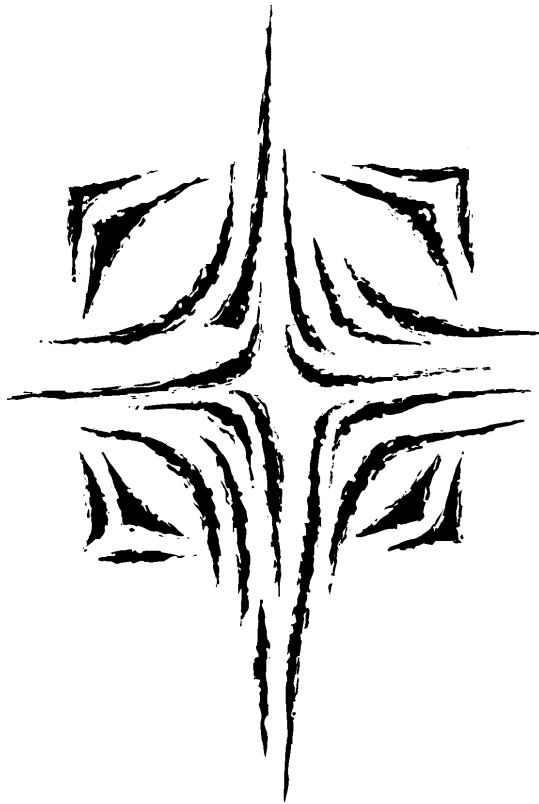
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December 25, 2021

10:00 AM

### CHRISTMAS DAY



*As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!*

GATHERING

*(stand)*

**INTROIT**

- P** To us is born a child and to us is given a son: his dominion is on his shoulders and he will be called angel of great counsel.
- G** **Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has worked wonders.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

**ELW 288**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 Good Christian friends, rejoice<br/>with heart and soul and voice;<br/>give ye heed to what we say:<br/>Jesus Christ is born today;<br/>ox and ass before him bow,<br/>and he is in the manger now.<br/>Christ is born today!<br/>Christ is born today!</b></p>                   | <p><b>2 Good Christian friends, rejoice<br/>with heart and soul and voice;<br/>now ye hear of endless bliss:<br/>Jesus Christ was born for this!<br/>He has opened heaven's door,<br/>and we are blest forevermore.<br/>Christ was born for this!<br/>Christ was born for this!</b></p> |
| <p><b>3 Good Christian friends, rejoice<br/>with heart and soul and voice;<br/>now ye need not fear the grave;<br/>Jesus Christ was born to save!<br/>Calls you one and calls you all<br/>to gain the everlasting hall.<br/>Christ was born to save!<br/>Christ was born to save!</b></p> |   |

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- G** **And also with you.**

## KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## GLORIA


*“Glory to God in the Highest”*

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All




Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

*(continued on next page)*



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Let us pray . . . All-powerful and unseen God,
- ☑ **the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:6-12

*The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord, A City Not Forsaken.*

**U**pon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, <sup>7</sup>and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

<sup>8</sup>The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; <sup>9</sup>but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. <sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion,

*“See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”*

<sup>12</sup>They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord“; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 97 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice;  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

<sup>2</sup>**Clouds and darkness surround the LORD,  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God’s throne.**

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes before the LORD,  
burning up enemies on every side.

<sup>4</sup>**Lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.**

<sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax  
before the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD,  
and all the peoples see your glory.**

<sup>7</sup>Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!  
Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

<sup>8</sup>**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O LORD.**

(continued on next page)

<sup>9</sup>For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

<sup>10</sup>**You who love the LORD, hate evil!**

**God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the honest of heart.

<sup>12</sup>**Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,  
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

## SECOND READING

**Titus 3:4-7**

*God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.*

**W**hen the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*(stand)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*“Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?”*



**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

*The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others."*

**I**n those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

☐ The Gospel of our Lord

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Savior of the Nations, Come”*

ELW 263

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1 Savior of the nations, come;<br/>virgin's son, make here your home.<br/>Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:<br/>God has chosen such a birth.</b></p> <p><b>2 Not by human flesh and blood,<br/>but the mystic Breath of God,<br/>was the Word of God made flesh,<br/>fruit of woman, blossom fresh.</b></p> <p><b>3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—<br/>from his throne, a virgin mild!<br/>Very God, and Mary's son,<br/>eager now his race to run!</b></p> | <p><b>4 From God's heart the Savior speeds,<br/>back to God his pathway leads;<br/>out to vanquish death's command,<br/>back to reign at God's right hand.</b></p> <p><b>5 Now your manger, shining bright,<br/>hallows night with newborn light.<br/>Night cannot this light subdue;<br/>let our faith shine ever new.</b></p> <p><b>6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,<br/>virgin's son, incarnate Word!<br/>To the holy Trinity<br/>praise we sing eternally!</b></p> |
|---|--|

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397;  
Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## THE NICENE CREED

- ☩** With the whole church, let us confess our faith:
- ☩ We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**



**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Response: **℟** Merciful God,  
**☩** receive our prayer.

### **THE PEACE IS SHARED**

**℟** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**☩** And also with you.

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

*We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online.*



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

## MUSICAL OFFERING

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

**ELW 679 vs. 1&3**

**1 For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☞** Gracious God,  
**☞** your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- ☐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
  
- ☐ Lift up your hearts.
- ☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**
  
- ☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...  
...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** With this bread and cup...  
...We look with hope for his coming.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Holy God, we long for your Spirit...  
...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** All praise and glory are yours...  
...one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## **THE 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.**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

- C** **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us!**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us!**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace!**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

- P** The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
- C** **Come meet Christ in this meal.**

(sit)

**HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**

*“What Child Is This”*

**ELW 296**

**1** What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

**2** Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

**3** So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

**ELW 279**

**1** O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

**2** For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!

**3** How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

**4** O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

*(stand)*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
- C** **God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **NUNC DIMITTIS**

- P** Let your servant now depart in peace, O Lord,
- C** **For your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation that you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people, Israel. Glory 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.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- P** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
- G** Amen.

## HYMN

*“Joy to the World”*

**ELW 267**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!</b><br/>Let earth receive her king;<br/>let ev'ry heart prepare him room<br/>and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.</p> <p><b>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!</b><br/>Let all their songs employ,<br/>while fields and floods,<br/>rocks, hills, and plains<br/>repeat the sounding joy,<br/>repeat the sounding joy,<br/>repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p><b>3 No more let sin and sorrow grow</b><br/>nor thorns infest the ground;<br/>he comes to make his blessings flow<br/>far as the curse is found,<br/>far as the curse is found,<br/>far as, far as the curse is found.</p> <p><b>4 He rules the world with truth and grace</b><br/>and makes the nations prove<br/>the glories of his righteousness<br/>and wonders of his love,<br/>and wonders of his love,<br/>and wonders, wonders of his love.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
- G** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

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