

Service of Light

L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

L Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**

L Let Your light scatter the darkness
C **and illumine Your Church.**

Phos Hilaron

LSB 244

L Joyous light of glory:
C **of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.
We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light.
We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
You are worthy of being praised
with pure voices forever.
O Son of God, O Giver of life:
the universe proclaims Your glory.**

Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

LSB# 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2-4

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Collect For Christmas Eve

- L** 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.
- C** Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

- 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.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- ⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 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.
- ⁷ Of 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.

Psalm 96

¹Oh sing to the LORD a | new song; *
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!
²**Sing to the LORD, | bless his name; *
tell of his salvation from | day to day.**
³Declare his glory among the | nations, *
his marvelous works among all the | peoples!
⁴**For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised; *
he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.**
⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless | idols, *
but the LORD made the | heavens.
⁶**Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him; *
strength and beauty are in his sanctu- | ary.**
⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the | peoples, *
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength!
⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name; *
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!**
⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness; *
tremble before him, | all the earth!
¹⁰**Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall nev- | er be moved; *
he will judge the peoples with | equity.”**
¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the | earth rejoice; *
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
¹²**let the field exult, and every- | thing in it!**
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
¹³before the LORD, | for he comes, *
for he comes to | judge the earth.
**He will judge the world in | righteousness, *
and the peoples in his | faithfulness.**
**Glory be 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**

Reading

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing ¹¹salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great

God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Solo: The Three Kings

(*P. Cornelius*)

Reading

Luke 2:1–20

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.

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.

LSB# 376 Once in Royal David's City

- 1 Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,
 Day by day like us He grew;
 He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us He knew;
 And He feels for all our sadness,
 And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 Through His own redeeming love;
 For that child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in heav'n above;
 And He leads His children on
 To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
 With the oxen standing by
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
 Set at God's right hand on high.
 Then like stars His children, crowned,
 All in white, His praise will sound!

Sermon "*A Simple Christmas*"

Luke 2: 1-20

Offering: 5pm Beside Thy Manger, Here I Stand (arr. P. Bunjes)
 8pm I Stand Beside Thy Cradle Here (arr. K. Hofmann)

Great Litany

Element

- L** O Lord,
C have mercy.
L O Christ,
C have mercy.
L O Lord,
C have mercy.
L O Christ,
C hear us.
L God the Father in heaven,
C have mercy.
L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C have mercy.
L God the Holy Spirit,
C have mercy.
L Be gracious to us.
C Spare us, good Lord.
L Be gracious to us.
C Help us, good Lord.

- L** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
- C** **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- L** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- L** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- L** We poor sinners implore You
- C** **to hear us, O Lord.**
- L** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our queen and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.
L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C have mercy.
L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C have mercy.
L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C grant us Your peace.
L O Christ,
C hear us.
L O Lord,
C have mercy.
L O Christ,
C have mercy.
L O Lord,
C have mercy. Amen.

Litany

LSB 249

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
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.

Solo: 5pm There is no Rose (B. Britten)

8pm Wonderful Peace (G. Nordqvist)

Benedicamus

LSB 252

L Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 252

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C **Amen.**