

# The Nativity of our Lord

## Christmas Day

**DECEMBER 25, 2018—9:30 am**

**Ascension Lutheran Church  
Littleton, CO**





# Christmas Morning



## Prelude

“A la Venue de Noel” Claude Balbastre

## The Greeting

PASTOR LARSON

## The Tolling of the Bell

*Congregation, please stand.*

## The Carol

“Joy to the World”

**LSB 387**

## INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People Amen.**

Pastor When the fullness of time had come,

**People God sent forth His Son.**

Pastor He sent redemption to His people;

**People Holy and awesome is His name!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor The time is fulfilled. Let us repent, confessing our sins to God our Father.

**People Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People Amen, so be it! Amen!**

## Gloria in Excelsis

“Gloria to Now the Green Blade”



1 Glo-ry in the high-est To our\_\_ God we sing. Praise and ad - o - ra-tion To our\_\_ heav'n-ly King.  
2 Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of\_\_ God, our Lord, You from us have tak - en Our sin's\_\_ aw - ful load.  
3 You a - lone are ho - ly, You a - lone are Lord: God the glor - ious Fa - ther, With the In - car - nate Word -



Grant to us peace On whom Your fa - vor rests. Thank You, Might - y Fa - ther, For Your\_\_ righ - teous-ness.  
Hear now our prayer, Have mer - cy on us all. Throned at God's right hand, Have mer - cy\_\_ on us all.  
Je - sus the Christ, Who with the Spir - it lives, Rul - ing earth and heav - en Now our\_\_ praise we give.

## The Prayer of the Day

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Pastor *Let us pray.* Blessed Lord, long ago You spoke through the voices of men to proclaim Your promise. Now You have spoken through Your Son, the Word made flesh. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe the living voice that bestows upon us the fullness of Your promises, once for all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives in unity with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**People Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Old Testament: Isaiah 52:7-10**

(God's salvation is made known to all.)

**How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”**

**Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.**

**Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.**

**The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.**

Lector The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God!**

**Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-6**

(Buried and raised with Christ, we walk in newness of life.)

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Lector      The Word of the Lord.

People      Thanks be to God!

**Congregational Carol**      "Of the Father's Love Begotten"  
Verses 1-3

**LSB 384**

*Congregation, please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

**Gospel: John 1:1-14**

(The Word becomes flesh on earth.)

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

People      Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor      The Gospel of the Lord.

People      Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon “A Life Changed: The Story From One Shepherd” Pastor Larson  
Text: Luke 2:8-20

The Apostles’ Creed LSB (*Inside back-cover*)

### The Prayer of the Church

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For holy joy to greet the Word made flesh in Christ’s saving birth and for the confidence to hold fast to this faith and to proclaim this Good News with speedy feet and bold witness to the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For ears to hear the voice of the Word, for wisdom to heed the Word of the prophets that point to Christ, for confidence in the power of this Word to deliver to us what it says in the forgiveness of sins, the gift of new life, communion restored with our heavenly Father, and the peace of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For blessing upon the Church gathered around the living Word, for those who proclaim this Word and teach it to us, for the missionary who brings it to those who have not yet heard, and for families who impart this Word and faith to their children, let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For peace in a world that knows no peace, for justice for the oppressed, for protection for the weakest—especially the unborn, for the punishment of evildoers and the promotion of virtue here and through our nation and for every people, let us pray of the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the visible Word of bread that is Christ’s body and wine that is His blood, for those who will receive this Holy Food this day, for our unity in faith and the strengthening of our fellowship together in the Body of Christ, the Church, let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the wounded in body or spirit, those grieving loved ones, the aged and the infirm, [*including . . .*], that they may call upon the Lord in their trouble and enjoy His ever-present mercy to heal them according to His will, sustain them in patience, and deliver them at last to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the faithful who went before us, who died in faith and now live in Christ, that we may not waver in the face of temptation nor succumb to

doubt, but endure in faith to the day when Christ comes in His glory to bring to completion His new creation and bring us and all the faithful to the marriage supper of the Lamb in His kingdom that has no end, let us pray to the Lord:

**People**     **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor**     Help, save, comfort, and defend us, O Lord. For these and all things needful for this body and life, let us pray with confidence in the name of the Word made flesh, our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and honor with the Father and the Spirit, now and to the end of the ages.

**People**     **Amen.**

### **The Sharing of the Peace**

**Pastor**     The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People**     **And also with you.**

*You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you*



### **THE OFFERING**

**Offertory**     *"The First Noel"*

arr. Josh Groben and Faith Hill  
Lilly and Rose Brinkman, soloists

### **The Offertory Prayer**

**Pastor**     God of glory,

**People**     **receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION**

*The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.*



# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## Christmas Communion

The Preface

“May the Lord-As With Gladness”



Pastor: May the Lord be with you now.



People: May the Lord be with you, too.



Pastor: Hearts and hands and voices raise



People: Lift - ed to the Lord in praise.



Pastor: Thank You, Lord, our God, most good



People: For our soul's most precious food.

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



# The Lord's Table

**The Sanctus** (*Sung to the tune: Angels We Have Heard on High*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God by high-est hosts a - dored,  
Sing ho - san - na, saints a - bove, with the an - gels sing God's love.

Heav'n and earth Your glo - ry sing; With them we our prais - es bring.  
Bless-ed He, the com - ing One, God the Fa - ther's on - ly Son.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## The Words of Consecration

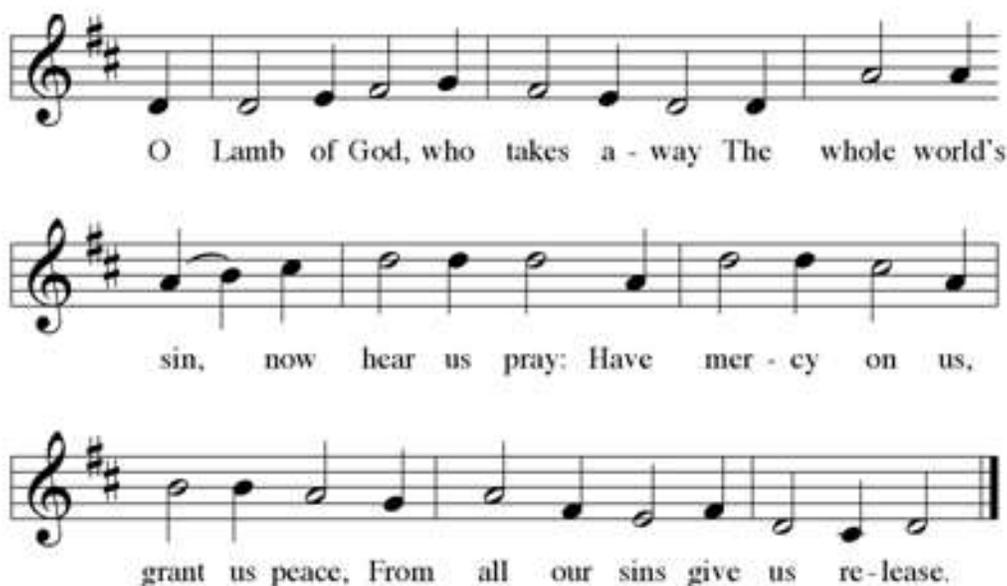
Pastor In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## O Lamb of God

Dix



O Lamb of God, who takes a - way The whole world's  
sin, now hear us pray: Have mer - cy on us,  
grant us peace, From all our sins give us re-lease.

## Carols during the Distribution

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB 361

"What Child Is This?"

LSB 370

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB 374

Christmas Organ Music

## The Communion Benediction

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

People Amen.

## The Post Communion Prayer

**Pastor** We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People** Amen.

## Benediction

**Pastor** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**People** Amen.

**The Carol** “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

**Good Christians friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow, And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christians friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven’s door, And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all To gain his everlasting hall,  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

## Congregational Concerns

**Pastor** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God!

**Postlude** “For Unto Us a Child is Born”

G.F. Handel

Christ is  
**BORN**  
WONDERFUL  
Counselor  
MIGHTY GOD  
Everlasting Father  
PRINCE OF PEACE



## Serving in Worship

### **THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY—9:30 AM**

OFFICIANT & CELEBRANT	The Reverend John R. Larson, PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES	Michael Zehnder
ELDER	Don Loptien
LECTOR	Jerry Peterson
GREETERS	Members of the Congregation
USHERS	Members of the Congregation
ALTAR GUILD	Gloria Mielke, Dawn Munson, Charmaine Rohde, Barb Williams