



Welcome to First Lutheran
Church December 9th, 2018

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
There-fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

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WELCOME

393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we light our second Advent candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ. Today we remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ “the Prince of Peace.” The prophets told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. Christ comes as God with us to bring us

peace in this life and the promise of everlasting peace. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him real peace is found.

KIDS **Jesus is the Light of the World!**

C Loving Father, who sent Jesus as Shepherd and Savior, we confess that our distracted doing has shrouded our Advent and turned us to follow our own way. Forgive us for shaping the celebration to fit our desires. Seize us by your Spirit. Focus our eyes and hearts on the coming Christ. Inspire us with Christ's Advent so that we shout from the housetop the Good News that in the coming Savior God is indeed with us. Make us into your joy-filled messengers, sharing your powerful message of salvation for all.

KIDS **Jesus is the Light of the World!**

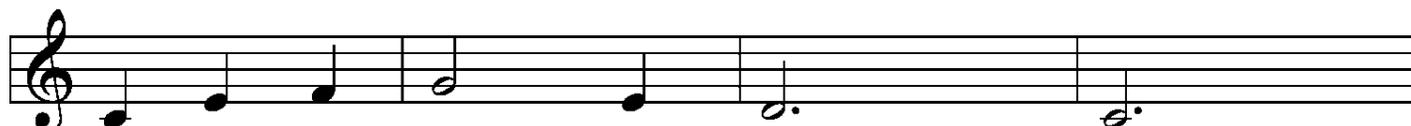
P Jesus has promised that the sins we forgive on earth will also be forgiven in heaven. Trusting that precious promise, as a called and ordained minister of the Gospel, I confidently declare to you that, in Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven, and you are privileged to share that same forgiveness with all the others in your life. We are filled with Jesus' light of life so that we can shine among the people of this world like stars in the sky.

Christmas Medley

411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

376 Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren 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!

Apostles' Creed

☐ 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 ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Children's Message

READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT READING: ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 PETER 2:21-25

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter,

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the

sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He
walk doth make With - in the paths of
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
of my foes; My head Thou dost with
fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

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SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYERS

P Lord, we have seen the sun go on its annual trek into the southern sky and watched the days shorten. The darkness closes in and we long for the light. Send us your light, Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Loving Lord, we are lulled into early sleep, and we hide ourselves in the darkness. Like lost sheep, we grope along our spiritual path and wander in the gloom. The darkness calls on us to sit idle and close our eyes to our darkening world. In this bleak time of spiritual sleep, stir us Lord. Wake us with your light. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Stir us up with a new vision of what your Spirit lose in our life and in our world can do through us. Set us on fire with your Word and with the light of your presence so that we are consumed with a passion for telling, proclaiming, sharing, giving away the Good News of the coming of the Savior of the world. Make us indeed the “light of the world” as we were called by Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Renew us as lights that carry the light, that live the light, that show the light of that good gift that you send us once again this Christmas. Fill us with your presence so that we can hear and answer your calling that they may see our good works and glorify you. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Send us as your light bearers to those who still sit in darkness, struggle with the crush of poverty, need, illness, grief or depression. We name before you in our hearts those who we know are in special need of your healing and strength. Help us share your presence and power. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Stir us with the joy and peace and hope that you send in the Baby that came to Bethlehem. Stir up our expectation for the wonder he will create as our Shepherd in the world, in our lives, in our homes, in our hearts. In the strong name of the Good Shepherd, coming into the world, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

BENEDICTION

P Now may God fill you with his power, guide you as your Shepherd, comfort you with his peace and may Almighty God, Father Son and Spirit bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

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.

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