

# The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord



**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

Lake Havasu City, Arizona + Evangelical Lutheran Synod

## Opening Hymn

## 348 A Child Is Born in Bethlehem



1 A child is born in Beth - le - hem, Beth - le -  
 2 His moth - er is the vir - gin maid, vir - gin  
 3 There in a low - ly man - ger lies, man - ger  
 4 The Fa - ther's Word on high did take, high did



hem, the joy of all Je - ru - sa - lem.  
 maid, who gave him birth with no man's aid.  
 lies, the Lord who reigns a - bove the skies.  
 take, a mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>5 Our feeble flesh and his the same,<br/>             his the same,<br/>             our sinless brother he became,<br/>             Alleluia, alleluia!</p> | <p>7 All filled with joy at Jesus' birth,<br/>             Jesus' birth,<br/>             we bless the Lord who came to earth.<br/>             Alleluia, alleluia!</p> |
| <p>6 From all our sin to set us free,<br/>             set us free,<br/>             that we again like him might be.<br/>             Alleluia, alleluia!</p>  | <p>8 All praise the Holy Trinity,<br/>             Trinity,<br/>             from now unto eternity!<br/>             Alleluia, alleluia!</p>                           |

Text: Latin, 13th cent.; (sts. 1–2, 8): tr. Christopher J. Neuendorf, alt.; (sts. 3–5): tr. Hamilton Montgomerie MacGill, 1807–1880; (sts. 6–7): tr. Christian Worship, 2021

Tune: 13th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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Stand

### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

♪ In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

♪ For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

♪ 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.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

♪ For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

♪ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

## Gloria in excelsis

CW 346



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French

Tune: French

Text and tune: Public domain

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

**Micah 5:2–5**

<sup>2</sup>But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.  
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore the Lord will give them up,  
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.  
Then the remaining survivors from his brothers  
will return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>This one will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 98

## Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.  
Tune: George F. Handel, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Reading

## Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" <sup>7</sup>

So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Galatians 4:4,5*

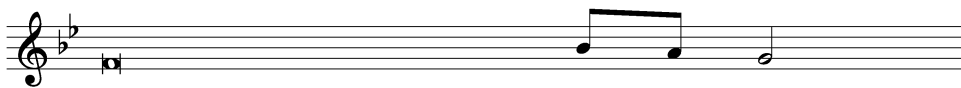


*Refrain*

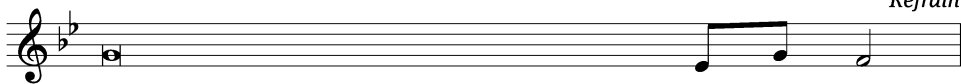


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Tone*



But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,



born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those un - der the law.

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

## **Gospel**

**John 1:1–18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.' " <sup>16</sup> For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day**

**358 Of the Father's Love Begotten**

*Use the Hymnal for the Hymn*

**Sermon**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

**“God's Son Came to Make You  
Sons of God Too”**



*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**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 in unity with the Father and the Son**

**is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

*Be seated*

## Prayer of the Church

Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to Your service. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Save and defend Your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ, which was shed on the cross but first shed at His circumcision. Strengthen Your faithful people through the Word and the holy Sacraments, making them perfect in love and in all good works and establishing in them the faith once delivered to the saints. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In Your mercy, strengthen our missions and younger congregations. By Your Gospel, make them steadfast. By that same Gospel refresh and renew the witness of Your people everywhere. Bless our ELS, our sister synods around the world and our worker training schools. Give wisdom and guidance to our government leaders. Restore and maintain peace in our world. Watch over our economy and especially those suffering financially. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At the threshold of this New Year, we thank you for all past blessings, especially for those whom we have known here below, but whom you have now summoned to rest in Your heavenly glory.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Special intercessions may follow*

Prepare our hearts to receive Your holy, precious, body and blood, born of Mary and sacrificed and shed on the cross for our sins, as we approach your table for the Sacrament of the Altar. Work true penitence and childlike faith in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

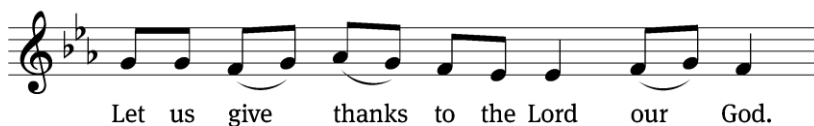
All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

# The Sacrament

Stand

## Preface

CW 165



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

# Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

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

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

We thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Lord's Prayer

Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, p 53

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en, Hal-low-ed be Thy name,  
Thy king-dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-en.  
Give us this day our dai-ly bread; And for-give us our tres-pass-es,  
as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us;  
And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, But de-liv-er us from e-vil.  
For Thine is the king-dom and the pow'r  
and the glo-ry for-ev-er and ev-er.  
A - - - men.

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed ... in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

*Be seated*

## To Our Guests:

Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church still follows the historic practice called **“Closed Communion.”** We ask that **all guests refrain from coming forward** until they have had the chance to **meet privately with the pastor.** Thank you for respecting our Scriptural and confessional convictions. (1 Cor. 11:27; Rom. 10:17).



# Distribution Hymn

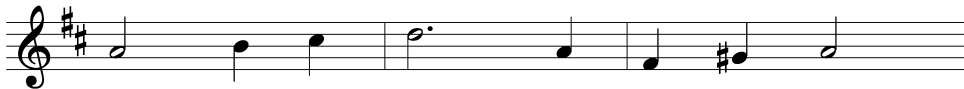
# 342 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is



1 O Je - sus Christ, your man - ger is  
 2 He whom the sea and wind o - bey  
 3 Dear Chris - tian friend, on him de - pend;  
 4 Pon - der a - gain what glo - ry then  
 5 The world may hold her wealth and gold;



my par - a - dise at which I am re - clin - ing.  
 comes down to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.  
 be of good cheer and let no sor - row move you.  
 the Lord will give you for your earth - ly sad - ness.  
 but you, my heart, keep Christ as your true trea - sure.



For there, O Lord, we find the Word  
 Now God's own Son with us is one  
 For God's own Child in mer - cy mild  
 The an - gel host can nev - er boast  
 To him hold fast un - til at last



made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.  
 and joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.  
 joins you to him— how great - ly God must love you!  
 of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.  
 a crown is yours and hon - or in full mea - sure.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
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*Stand after all have communed*

# Nunc Dimittis

# 951 Lord, Now You Let Your Servant

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.  
Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989  
Text and tune: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.  
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our  
love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**



## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

## Closing Hymn

## 361 Go, Tell It on the Mountain



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain

Tune: African American spiritual

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*A Blessed and Merry  
Christmas to All*

*From Pastor, Sara, and  
Leslie*