#### Christmas Day - Saturday December 25, 2021 – 9:00 am

### **Music Today**

#### **Terrie Sanchez**

Pastor Aaron Boerst

### **AS WE GATHER**

Throughout history, our gracious God has made outlandish promises. His spokesmen, the writers of biblical books, said that a descendant of David would come to sit on an eternal royal throne. More than that, His titles would include some reserved for God in heaven. He was and is a Wonderful Counselor, revealing God's love in His own life and death; the Mighty God, though hidden within fragile flesh and blood; the Everlasting Father, though trapped in time and space; and the Prince of Peace, ruling not by enforcement of divine law but by forgiving all who call to Him for grace and mercy. Today, we celebrate His birth among us in time, as promised long ago and in our hearts each day.

### **Gathering Song**

Once in Royal David's City

### Welcome & Invocation

**Opening Hymn** O Come, All Ye Faithful LSB 379 ye 10 all faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um-phant! O come, 2 High est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal, -3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap-py morn-ing; come ye, 0 to Beth le - hem: come ye Born of vir tal He comes; а gin, а mor of Sing, all ye cit - i zens heav en a - bove! Je sus, to Thee\_ be. giv'n! glo ry Him Come and be hold Born the king of an - gels: of Fa - ther Now flesh pear - ing! Son the in ap -Glo ry to God\_ In the. high - est: Word Fa - ther Now of the in flesh ap - pear - ing! Refrain Him, O come, let us a - dore O come, let us a - dore Him, Him. 0 come, let dore Christ the Lord! us а -Text and tune: Public domain

#### **Call to Worship** Isaiah 9:2; LSB 361:1

The people who walked in darkness Pastor:

**People:** have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, Pastor:

- **People:** on them has light shined.
- Pastor: O little town of Bethlehem,
- People: How still we see thee lie!

- Pastor: Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
- People: The silent stars go by;
- Pastor: Yet in thy dark streets shineth
- People: The everlasting light.
- Pastor: The hopes and fears of all the years
- People: Are met in thee tonight.

# Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. The circular wreath of evergreen branches reminds us of the eternal nature of our Lord God, and that He gives the promise of eternal life for all who believe, just as a circle is unending, and an evergreen life through winter. The blue colors of the 3 candles remind us of the royalty of Jesus, and how He welcomes us into His Kingdom. The single pink candle reminds us to pause our lives and reorient ourselves to positivity and joy. The center white candle reminds us that Christ is the center of our lives and makes us pure.
- Pastor: Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.
- People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word we hope.
- Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.
- People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word we rest.
- Pastor: Jesus Christ is the source of all joy.
- People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word we rejoice.
- Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Lord of love.
- People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word His love finds us.
- Pastor: Jesus Christ is the center of our lives.
- People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word he forgives our sins.

# **Confession And Forgiveness**

- Pastor: If we say we have no sin, our hearts are far from the Manger, we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us.
- People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

Pastor: We do not live in those days, when Joseph and Mary had to return to ancestral homes for a census,
 People: But we do complain and even question God's care when we must move our hearts to new things.

Pastor: We are not Mary, traveling to Bethlehem as she is about to give birth,

People: But sometimes we lead lives that send us on difficult journeys and place us in stressful situations.

Pastor: We are not responsible for the lack of space at the Bethlehem inn,

- People: But we have allowed our Savior to be crowded out of our schedules, budgets, and priorities.
- Pastor: Almighty God used Caesar so that our Lord would be born in Bethlehem, and He can use your circumstances to bring about good. In His mercy he has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ⊕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: Almighty God, source of every good and perfect gift, we give You thanks for all of Your blessings of body and soul. Purify us by Your Word and Spirit that, receiving all You have to give, we may offer our lives in gratitude to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

#### **Old Testament Reading**

("Behold, your salvation comes.")

<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 a signal over the peoples.
<sup>11</sup>Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."
<sup>12</sup>And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

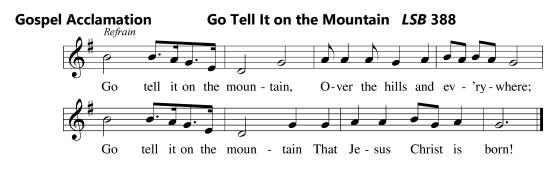
#### **Epistle Reading**

("He saved us . . . according to His own mercy.")

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

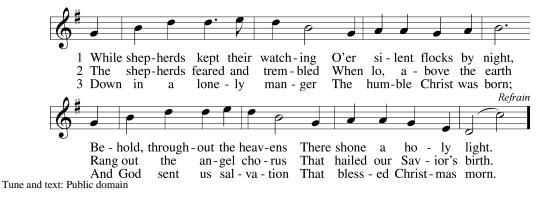
Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Isaiah 62:10–12

Titus 3:4–7



### **Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1–20

(The birth of Jesus is announced to the shepherds.)

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And 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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,

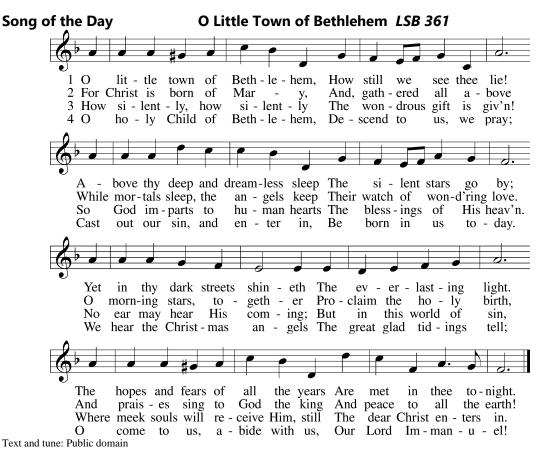
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

### Children's Message



#### Sermon

The Jesse Tree: Jesus

Pastor Aaron Boerst

#### Creed – APOSTLE'S 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.

### Prayers of the Church [Isaiah 9:6]

Pastor: This Christmas Day, we come before our Lord in prayer rejoicing that "for to us a child is born, to us a son is given." Lord, as we hear the angels' words, "Fear not," let us take their admonishment to heart. In the face of fears and anxiety, grant us peace in the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

#### People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, during this season of celebration, cheer those who are lonely or mark this season with a painful grief. Give them the true joy that comes from the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

#### People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, You chose Mary and Joseph to care for Your Son. Bless all those with whom You have given the vocation of mother or father, grandmother or grandfather that they care for the children entrusted into their care, sharing with them the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

### People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, continue to watch over those who suffer in body and spirit. Grant them healing and restoration from their afflictions according to Your gracious will. Give them peace in their affliction through the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

### People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: "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."

## People: Amen.

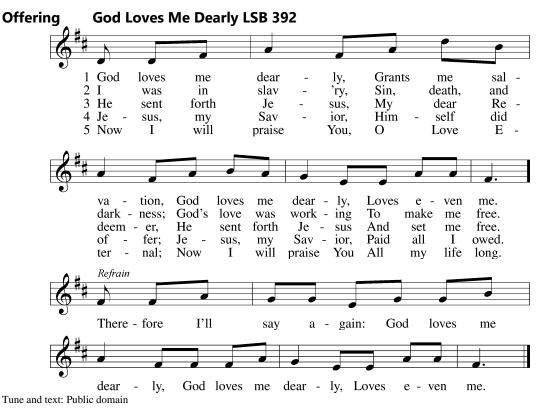
Pastor: O Lord, Hear us on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

### Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

### Sharing the Peace



### **Presentation of Gifts**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [Psalm 145:15, James 1:17]

People: Amen.

### **Holy Communion**

### Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [2 Timothy 4:22]

### People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

### **Proclamation of Christ**

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. [1 Cor.11:26]

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20]

### Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9–13]

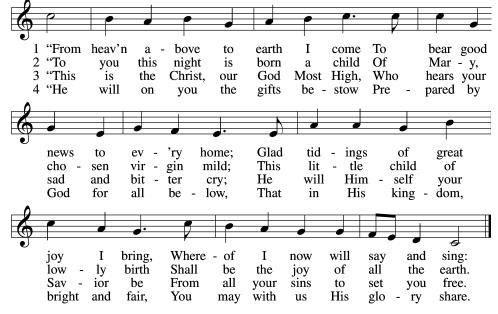
Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

### Distribution

### What Child Is This

### From Heaven Above to Earth I Come LSB 358 1-5



5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark. There you will find the infant laid

By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

Text and tune: Public domain

### Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

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.

#### Announcements

