



**Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia!**

**On this day God gave us
Christ, His Son, to save us;
Christ, His Son, to save us.**

—Lutheran Service Book 381:4



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Corner of Broadway and Florey



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WELCOME TO THE CHRIST-MASS! That is to say, welcome to the Divine Service celebrating the birth of Christ! The waiting and preparing are over! At last Christmas's Twelve Days celebrating His birth into human flesh nearly two millennia ago are underway. We are glad that you have come here this day, and we welcome you to Pilgrim Lutheran Church! Come again any time!

AS YOU ARRIVE, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

ORDER OF SERVICE: To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back. The \triangle symbol before a hymn stanza indicates that it especially gives glory to the Triune God; we stand before singing the stanza and, in most cases, conclude the stanza by singing "Amen.", if an "Amen" is not already included.

HOLY COMMUNION: At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

INDIVIDUAL CUPS: The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

384 Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

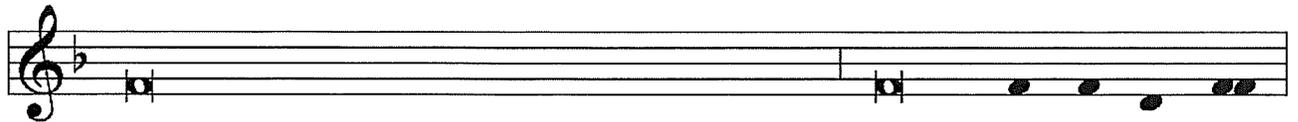
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



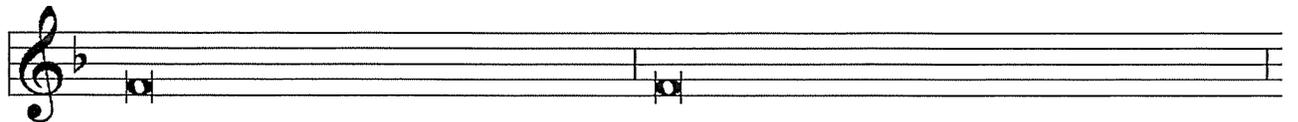
C Lord, have mer - cy.



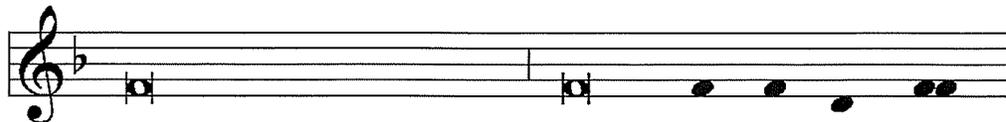
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



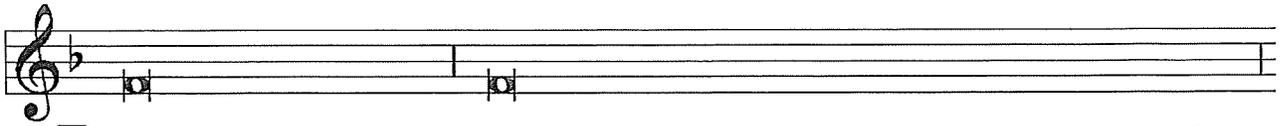
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



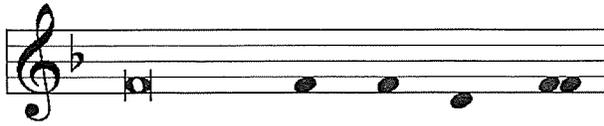
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



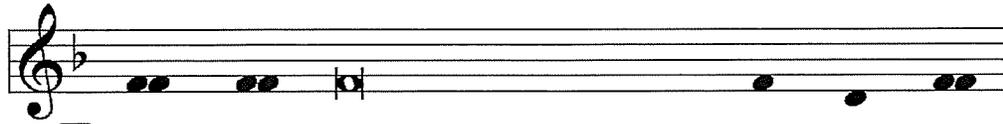
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.
...now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

391 Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn



Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-12

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,
¹²like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Sequence Hymn

381 Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!
2 Proph - e - sied in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!
3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!
God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!
From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!
He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

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Holy Gospel

John 1:1-18

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



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No

one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side,
he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth



1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You
 2 Now in the man - ger we may see God's Son from e -
 3 The vir - gin Mar - y's lul - la - by Calms the in - fant
 4 The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to
 5 The ver - y Son of God sub - lime En - tered in - to



came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy
 ter - ni - ty, The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne
 Lord Most High. Up - on her lap con - tent is He
 gleam a - new; His beams have pierced the core of night,
 earth - ly time To lead us from this world of cares



And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who keeps the earth and sky and sea. Al - le - lu - ia!
 He makes us chil - dren of the light. Al - le - lu - ia!
 To heav - en's courts as bless - ed heirs. Al - le - lu - ia!

6 In poverty He came to earth
 Showing mercy by His birth;
 He makes us rich in heav'nly ways
 As we, like angels, sing His praise.
 Alleluia!

7 All this for us our God has done
 Granting love through His own Son.
 Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice
 And sing His praise with endless voice.
 Alleluia!

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Sit

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down
from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin
Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Congregational responses may be included according to one of the following forms:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| A ... Lord, in Your mercy, | C hear our prayer. |
| A For ... let us pray to the Lord. | C Lord, have mercy. |

Sit
Offering

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



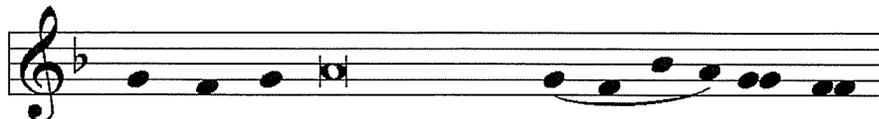
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en 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 who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(Prayer of Remembrance)

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.

C **Amen.**

Distribution Hymns

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



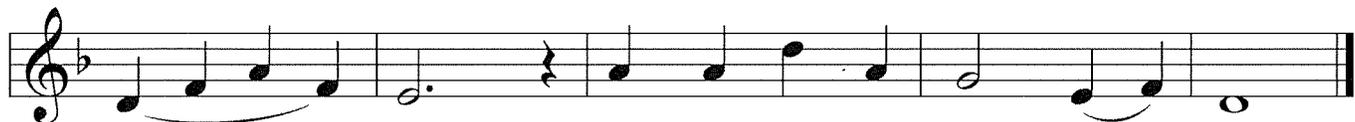
1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text and tune: Public domain

630 Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling



1 Now, my tongue, the mys - t'ry tell - ing Of the glo - rious
2 Giv'n for us, and con - de - scend - ing To be born for
3 That last night at sup - per ly - ing Mid the Twelve, His
4 Word made flesh, the bread He tak - eth, By His word His
5 Glo - ry let us give and bless - ing To the Fa - ther



bod - y sing, And the blood, all price ex - cel - ling,
us be - low, He with us in con - verse blend - ing
cho - sen band, Je - sus, with the Law com - ply - ing,
flesh to be; Wine His sa - cred blood He mak - eth,
and the Son, Hon - or, thanks, and praise ad - dress - ing,



Which the Gen - tiles' Lord and King, Once on earth a -
Dwelt, the seed of truth to sow, Till He closed with
Keeps the feast its rites de - mand; Then, more pre - cious
Though the sens - es fail to see; Faith a - lone the
While e - ter - nal a - ges run; Ev - er too His



mong us dwell - ing, Shed for this world's ran - som - ing.
won - drous end - ing His most pa - tient life of woe.
food sup - ply - ing, Gives Him - self with His own hand.
true heart wak - eth To be - hold the mys - ter - y.
love con - fess - ing Who from both with both is One.

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Tune: Public domain

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who
 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see, As at the



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the
 rail on bend - ed knee Our hun - gry mouths from



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.
 Him re - ceive The bread of im - mor - tal - i - ty.

- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
 A priestly food and priestly meat;
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
 His quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
 Our voices join the endless hymn,
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Post-Communion Canticle



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

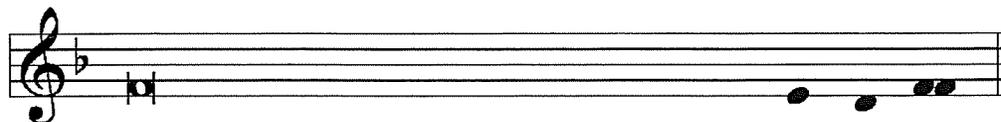
Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
... one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction



P 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.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn

387 Joy to the World



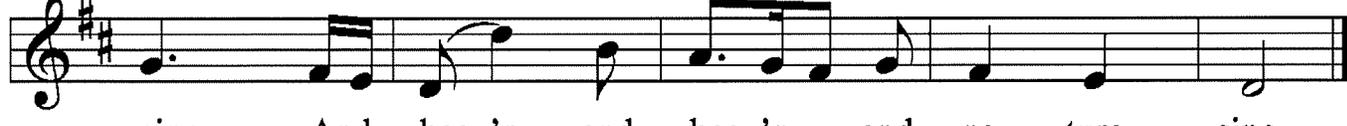
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



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.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE: Today's order of service reflects some changes, both because Advent is over and due to the special nature of today's festival. For example, the customary preparatory rite is omitted on this joyous festival day, in part because the penitential season of Advent itself serves as preparation for the celebration of Christmas. (Everyone is nevertheless encouraged to be properly prepared for the Holy Supper. Dr. Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" on pp.329-330 in *Lutheran Service Book* are an appropriate tool for such self-preparation.) Furthermore, the Hymn of Praise returns, in this case the angels' song at Jesus's birth as reproduced in the "Gloria in Excelsis". And, as is the custom on higher feasts, Sequence Hymns are used between the readings, in place of and as expanded forms of the Psalm and Alleluia and Verse.

SERVING TODAY: The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Jeromy McMurray, Elder on Duty; and Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

THANK YOU to all who placed greens Sunday, to Pilgrim's Mary/Martha Society for lunch, and to those who picked up Pilgrim's poinsettias.

THIS WEEK: Please remember that there is no Catechesis today and that Pastor Galler's Study Hours will be irregular, though you still are welcome to come for Individual Confession and Absolution (see *Lutheran Service Book* 292-293) or for any other reason (to confirm Pastor's availability, text/call 903-984-4333).

SUNDAY: 9:15 a.m. Refreshments; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class ("Romans: The Righteousness of God"); and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service ("Loose-Change Sunday").

Readings: Jer 31:15-17; Ps 54:1-7; Rev 14:1-5; and Mt 2:13-18.

Hymns: LSB 375, 969, 517(with st.9), 399, 764, and 888.

Prepare yourself for worship in advance by praying about, reading over, and meditating on the appointed Scripture Readings and selected Hymns.

CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS DIVINE SERVICE will be Thursday, January 1, at 10:00 a.m. (note the earlier-than-usual time for a morning Divine Service). Start the new year off in the Lord's Name!

The Greek text in the image on the front cover, transliterated as *ho logos* and translated as "the Word", is the original term that the Divinely-inspired St. John uses in John 1:1-18 to refer to the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. The black and white line-art drawing on the front cover is by Lutheran Artist Edward Riojas of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is part of a package purchased from Higher Things and donated to Pilgrim for such uses.

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