



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 Δ 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.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

2025 DECEMBER 25

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE (*Lutheran Service Book*, pp.151-166.)

+++ IN THE NAME OF JESUS +++

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Entrance Hymn:	"Of the Father's Love Begotten"	384
Kyrie		152-153
Hymn of Praise:	"Gloria in Excelsis"	154
Salutation and Collect of the Day		156
Old Testament (& Response):	Isaiah 52:7-10	156
Sequence Hymn:	"Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn"	391
Epistle (& Response):	Hebrews 1:1-12	156
Sequence Hymn:	"Let Our Gladness Have No End"	381
Holy Gospel (& Responses):	John 1:1-18	157
Hymn of the Day:	"We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth"	382
Sermon	John 1:1-18	
Nicene Creed		158
Prayer of the Church, Offering, & Offertory		159-160
<small>(Offerings placed in the Box in the Narthex before the Service are brought forward here.)</small>		

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface, Sanctus, Prayer of Thanksgiving, (left column)		160-163
The Words of Our Lord, Proclamation of Christ, (Prayer of Remembrance,) Lord's Prayer, Pax Domini, & Agnus Dei		
Distribution (& Distribution Hymns):		164
	"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"	621
	"Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling"	630
	"The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"	624
Post-Communion Canticle	"Nunc Dimittis"	165
Post-Communion Collect & Benediction		166
Closing Hymn:	"Joy to the World"	387

+++ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY +++

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.



**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