

10 Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. 11 The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, “See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” 12 They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

- 1 The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!
- 2 **Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**
- 3 Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side.
- 4 **His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.**
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 **The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.**
- 7 All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him.
- 8 **Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.**
- 9 For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 **The LORD loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**
- 11 Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.
- 12 **Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!**

Second Reading Titus 3:4-7

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6 This Spirit he poured out on

us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

[Stand]

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

The holy gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2:1-20

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This

will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

[Sit]

Sermon

Silence is kept for reflection.

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”** **ELW 270**

Nicene Creed

Inside front cover of hymnal

Prayers of Intercession

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers end with:

Come down to us, O God, and make your home with us, in us, and through us, for the sake of the one whose birth the angels sang and the shepherds proclaimed, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with fellow worshipers

[Sit]

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

[Stand]

Offering Song

“What Child Is This”

ELW 296

Offering Prayer

Merciful God,

it would have been enough for you to give us the fruit of the earth by which we live. But in this meal, by your promise, you also give us your self. Use what we have gathered here in feeding the hungry world with your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Pages 152-154

Thanksgiving and Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Lamb of God

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

[Sit]

Communion

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

ELW 281

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289

[Stand]

Prayer after Communion

Radiant God,

with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have

feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us,
that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known
to us in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace,
guide your days and years in righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn ***“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*** ***ELW 290***

[Sit]

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Ringling of the bell

+++++

Serving Us Today...

	St Matthew
Organists	Frances Scheffer
Readers	Pastor Abbott
Ushers	Stanley Sommer Bubba Brewton Roger Ellermann