

Saturday, December 26, 2020 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 27, 2020 8:45 a.m.

Prelude

Announcements *Vicar Jason Christ, Director of Attract & Middle School Ministries*

Welcome *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

(Stand)

Opening Hymn

Let All Together Praise Our God *LSB Hymnal 389, verses 1, 2, 5, and 7 (Cantor will sing verse 5)*



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
5 He is a ser - vant, I a lord: How great a
△ 7 Your grace in low - li - ness re - vealed, Lord Je - sus,

Cantor sings verse 5



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
mys - ter - y! How strong the ten - der Christ Child's love! No
we a - dore And praise to God the Fa - ther yield And



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
tru - er friend than He, No tru - er friend than He.
Spir - it ev - er - more; We praise You ev - er - more.

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Invocation

Leader This is the day which the Lord has made;

People Let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

Leader From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People The name of the Lord is to be praised. *Psalm 113:3*

Leader Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

People I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
Psalm 84:10

Leader Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

People Teach me Your paths. *Psalm 25:4*

Leader Sanctify us in Your truth.

People Your Word is truth. **John 17:17**

Leader From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People The name of the Lord is to be praised. *Psalm 113:3*

People Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Leader Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

(silence for personal confession)

Leader Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

People Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise* LSB Hymnal 946, verses 1 and 3



1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
△ 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Who with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

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Scripture Reading *(Sit)*

Reader God speaks to us through the Old Testament: Habakkuk 1:1-11

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. “Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves. Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!”

Reader God speaks to us through the New Testament: 1 John 5:5-15

Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: John 1:24–34

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

Children’s Message *Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministries*

(Stand)

Message Hymn *The Night Will Soon Be Ending* LSB Hymnal 337 (Tune: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna)



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -
2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a
3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring
4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our
5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now
child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears
morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows
hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -
night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness
all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not
in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -
round us may in - crease. But now one Star is
turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - diant
cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -
ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a
beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for
sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.
demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.
new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.
our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.
still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

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(Sit)

Message *Does God Care?* Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.

Christmas Creed (Stand)

People I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, and adored by the wise men; who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and by whose work in my heart I am led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love and live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.

Offering

Give at FTGives.com or text "Give" to 716-710-8800.

God Loves Me Dearly *Hymnal 392 Congregation and Kinderchor will sing opposite verses*



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -

Congregation sings verse 1

Kinderchor sings verse 2

Congregation sings verse 3

Kinderchor sings verse 4

Congregation sings verse 5



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Tune and text: Public domain

(Sit)

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer *(Stand)*

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. 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.

Closing Hymn *Let Us All with Gladsome Voice* *Hymnal 390*



1 Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
There - fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

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Silent Prayer and Postlude

Unless noted otherwise, scripture passage came from the English Standard Version.

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Special thanks to our cantor Lindsay Gugliuzza.

Altar Flowers presented to the glory of God in memory of family and friends by Terri and John Mecca.