

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Proclaim tidings of joy; publish good news:

God has spoken. God dwells with us. God reigns.

We have heard God's voice and have good news to tell.

We have felt God's presence, so we reach out to share.

Sing songs of praise; speak of salvation; God comforts.

God loves. God is faithful.

We have joined our voices with sisters and brothers.

We have been anointed and surrounded by saving grace.

Bear witness to light and peace. Share the Word:

God walks with us. God gives. God empowers.

We have seen light shining into our darkness;

we would now share the Word in all we do.

Amen.

Amen.

Closing Hymn #70 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Opening Hymn #60 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song to God,
who has done marvelous things.

**God has spoken to us through a Child;
let us all worship at the manger.**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

**God has given us a song to sing;
let our voices soar with good tidings.**

With trumpet and lyre and joyous clapping,
greet the One who judges the earth with equity.

**God upholds the universe with love
and meets us here with unending faithfulness.**

INVOCATION

Reigning God, whose rule extends to the farthest stars, come to rule within us on this glorious day when the Word becomes flesh once more to dwell among us. We open ourselves to the light and long to offer our lives as a dwelling place for your truth. Speak to us again through the Child of Bethlehem. Reach out to the child in all of us, and hold us in the warmth of love's embrace. Amen

CALL TO CONFESSION

God who judges earth with righteousness invites us to examine ourselves once more. Our Creator, who loves virtuousness and hates lawlessness, encourages us to confess the self-centeredness in which we have lived. The Majesty on high, who has spoken to the world in the Word made flesh, summons us to the cleansing waters of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We shrink from your judgment, Mighty God, for we have often broken your law of love. We have rejected your Word and hidden from your Light. We have not responded to your offers of salvation with clapping hands or joyous spirits. Forgive us, God, for halfhearted commitments and muted witness. Move within and among us to bring your new day in our lives. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God judges the world with equity; all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God. There is comfort amid our sorrow, grace to cover all our brokenness, purification from all our sin. God empowers us with flames of fire to become servants of the highest and best. God anoints us with the oil of gladness and fills our hearts with song.

READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10 Old Testament pg. 683
Psalm 2 [responsive]
Hebrews 1:1-6 New Testament pg. 218
John 1:1-14 New Testament pg. 91-92

- LBW 40 What Child Is This
- LBW 41 O Little Town of Bethlehem
- LBW 44 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
- LBW 50 Angels, from the Realms of Glory
- LBW 58 Lo, How a Rose Is Growing
- LBW 71 Angels We Have Heard on High
- WOV 643 Once in Royal David's City

643

Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,

where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man-ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil-dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er 'round, bright like stars, with glo-ry crowned.