

Christmas Day Service

December 25, 2007

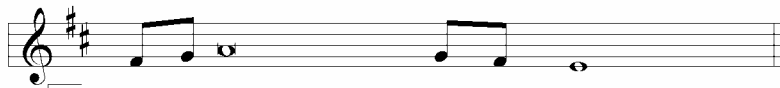
The Savior is Born

The Ringing of the Bells

The Pastoral Greeting

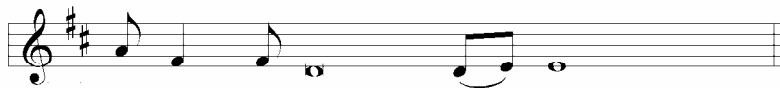
Opening Hymn 42 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

M: O Lord, open my lips.



C And my mouth shall de-clare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.



C O Lord, come quickly to help me.

The Christmas Day Prayer

M: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God Sends His Son to Save Us

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

page 683

As a light shining in darkness, so the news of our Savior's birth shines through the darkness of sins and despair. The coming of this special child who triumphed over sin, death, and the devil is greater than the greatest military victory in the history of the world. His victory, and the peace that his victory brings, will last eternally.

Hymn 59 Christ the Lord to Us is Born

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

The miracle of the birth of God's Son marks the beginning of the promise fulfilled.

Confession of Faith (Luther's Explanation: 2nd Article -- Apostles' Creed)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Hymn 33 All Praise to You, Eternal God

Sermon: Titus 2:11-14

page 1182

God's Saving Grace Has Appeared to All

It brings salvation
It teaches godliness
It provides hope

Hymn 55 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

We Show our Thanks to God through our Offerings

Christmas Prayer

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

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Lord's Prayer

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hymn 62 Joy to the World