The Nativity of Our Lord Midnight Mass

25 December Anno 🕂 Domini 2009



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

325 E. Warwick Dr. ~ Alma, MI 48801 (989) 463-5754 ~ www.peacealma.org contact@peacealma.org

Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor Home: (989) 463-3093 ~ Cell: (989) 388-2037 pastor@peacealma.org

The Nativity of Our Lord

Midnight Mass

25 December Anno + Domini 2009



The Service of Preparation

(Upon entering the nave on this most holy night, <u>silence</u> should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

Preparatory Prayers

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

(When the acolytes have finished lighting the candles in the sanctuary, they will proceed down into the nave and light the individual candle of each person seated nearest the center aisle, who will, in turn, offer their light to the next person in the pew, and so on, until all individual candles have been lit. We will begin Midnight Mass on this solemn evening by candlelight, not extinguishing our individual candles until after the Collect of the Day.)

The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

(The congregation stands at the Ringing of the Bells and faces the processional cross for the Reading of the Christmas Martyrology and Processional Hymn. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in, and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)

The Reading of the Christmas Martyrology

- Enth; in the year 5,199 from the creation of the world, when in the beginning God created Heaven and Earth; in the year 2,957 from the Flood; in the year 2,015 from the birth of Abraham; in the year 1,510 from Moses and the Exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt; in the year 1,032 from David's being anointed king; in the 65th week of years according to the prophecy of Daniel; in the 194th Olympiad; in the year 752 from the building of the city of Rome; in the 42nd year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace; in the sixth age of the world; Jesus Christ, the eternal God, and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify this world by His most merciful coming, being conceived of the Holy Ghost, and nine months since His conception having passed, in Bethlehem of Judea, is born of the Virgin Mary, being made man.
- The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus + Christ According to the Flesh.

The Processional Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"





Text and Music: Public domain

The Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

The Invocation

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

The Christmas Versicles

- **P** Lo, to us the Christ is born.
- **C** O come, let us worship Him.
- P The Lord said to me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten you."
- **C** The Lord sent redemption to His people, He has commanded His covenant forever.
- **P** One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.
- Christ the Lord, our Savior, everlasting God and Mary's Son, we praise You evermore.
- P Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!
- C Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



The Service of the Word

The Introit

Ps. 98:1–4; antiphon: Liturgical text; Is. 9:6



When all was still, and it was | midnight,*

your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*

and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!* His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

The Lord has made known his sal- | vation;*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth;* break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;* and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

When all was still, and it was | midnight,*

your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.



The Kyrie





The Gloria in Excelsis

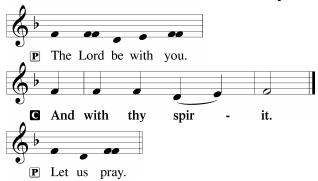








The Salutation and Collect of the Day



P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated and carefully extinguish your candles

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

The Gradual *Ps. 118:26a, 27a, 23*

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*

The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

This is the Lord's doing;*

it is marvelous in our eyes.

The Epistle Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Alleluia and Verse



Verse (choir): The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



The Holy Gospel

John 1:1-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter.



¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me."') ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This the Gospel of the Lord.



The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before

all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made + man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

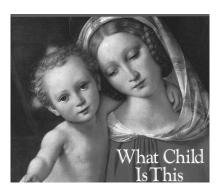
the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

The Hymn of the Day: "What Child Is This"

(Stanza 1 - soloist Carol Zeile)





Text and Music: Public domain

The Sermon

Stand

The Hymn of Reponse: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"





Sit

The Offering

Offerings are not gathered during Service this evening. If you wish to leave an offering, you may do so by placing it in the plate by the door as you depart after Service.

Stand

The Prayer of the Church

- Let us pray to God our Father and worship Christ our Savior, everlasting God and Mary's Son: Heavenly Father, to whom glory is sung in the highest and peace is proclaimed to people on earth, give to Your holy Church the peace of sins forgiven and Your continued favor and merciful good will. Oh, come, let us adore Him,
- Christ the Lord!
- P On Christmas night You sent the angels to preach the good news of Jesus' birth. Give to all pastors of our Church courage to lead us boldly to the Christ Child. Fill us with joy that we may each make known abroad the glad tidings concerning this Child, that more may be given faith to confess Him as Lord. Oh, come, let us adore Him,
- Christ the Lord!
- P Bless our country, all its citizens, and all who are in authority over us. Cause Your glory to dwell among us, and let mercy, truth, and justice prevail everywhere, that throughout our land people may come to know the Prince of Peace. Oh, come, let us adore Him,
- Christ the Lord!

P Merciful God, we thank You for the joys of family and friends this season, together with the abundance of Your blessings. Open our hearts and homes to the lonely and destitute that we may be Your instruments of love and charity. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C Christ the Lord!

Remember, we pray, the homeless, hungry, and oppressed, and give them hope. Protect the lonely and homebound of our parish, and grant peace and healing to the sick, suffering, hospitalized, recovering, and all those who have requested our prayers (*including* . . .). Guide the journeys of those who travel. Comfort those who mourn. Create a new and contrite heart in the erring and faith in those who have not heard the good news. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C Christ the Lord!

P Lord God, make a manger in the hearts of all who come to the altar that they may treasure up and ponder the marvelous gifts of salvation You give there through the very body and blood of the Lord Jesus. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord!

In the birth of Your Son, O God, You have clothed us with eternal life. We remember with thanksgiving all those who have died in the faith. Unite our voices with theirs that we may join the heavenly song of angels. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

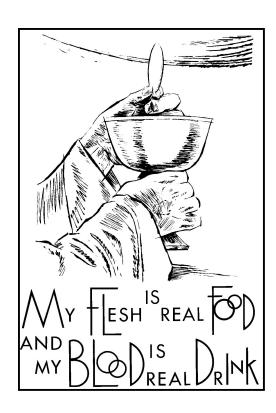
C Christ the Lord!

- For all these things and whatever else You would have us ask, we implore You to hear us gracious Father, through Jesus Christ our Savior, whom together with the Holy Spirit we praise, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament

The Preface

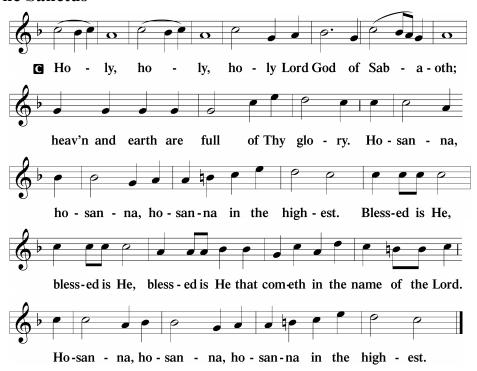




The Proper Preface

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus



The Lord's Prayer

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;
and 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.



The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My 4 blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Christmas Responsory

- **P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- **C** He was in the beginning with God.
- P All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.
- In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Silence is observed to meditate upon the miracle and mystery of the Word made Flesh, our Holy and Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ, who gives us His very Body and Blood in the Most Holy Eucharist

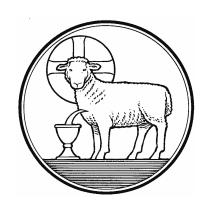






The Agnus Dei

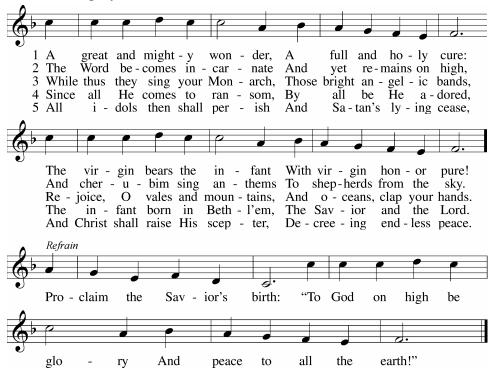




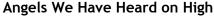
Distribution Hymns

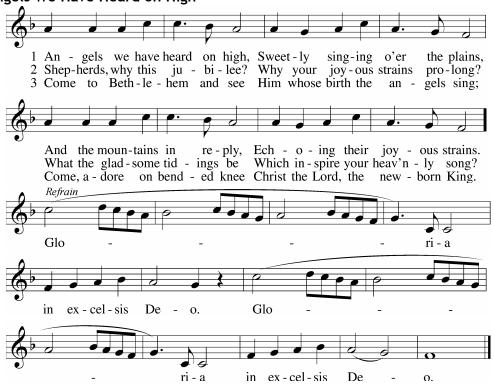
Note: If all have received the Sacrament and we have not yet sung all four hymns, we will continue until we have.

A Great and Mighty Wonder



Text and Music: Public domain



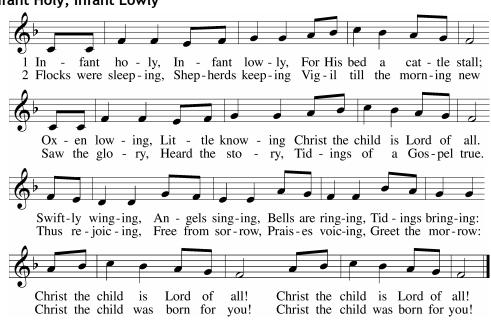


Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Text and Music: Public domain





Text and Tune: Public domain

The Dismissal

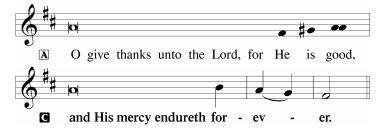
- The holy and precious, true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in true faith, unto life everlasting. Depart in His + peace.
- C Amen.

The Nunc Dimittis





The Thanksgiving



The Post-Communion Collects

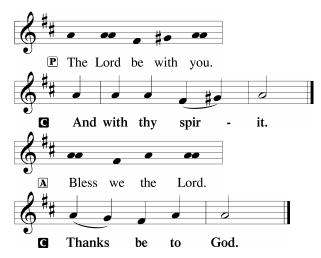
Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people who have kept the feast of this Most Holy Night, and who have received that same eternal Word in the Holy Eucharist, the grace to put away fleshly lusts, and the strength to persevere in the one, true faith that ever stands ready for Your Holy Visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



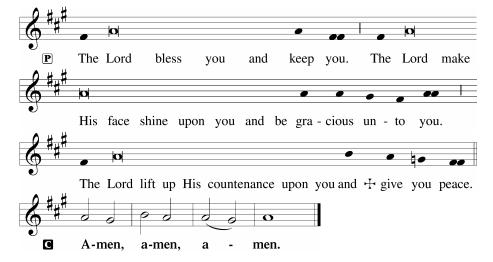
P O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Salutation and Benedicamus



The Benediction

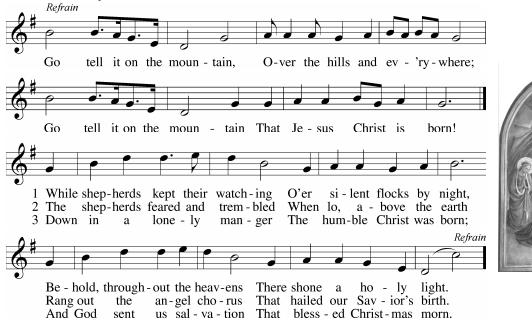


Hymn of Joyous Celebration: "Joy to the World"



Text and Music: Public domain

Recessional Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"





Text (sts. ref, 1-3) and Music: Public domain

Serving Our Lord

Midnight Mass – 11:30 p.m.

The Ushers: Vern Jakolat, Chris Brown The Organist: Mary Jakolat The Elder: Dave Zeile Altar Care: Carol Zeile

The Acolytes: Sarah Messer, Samantha Messer

Sunday, Dec. 27

The Organist: Mary Jakolat The Ushers: Daren Johnson, Bill Hendrick The Elder: Dave Zeile The Greeters: Jim & Janice Sager The Acolytes: Sierra Luplow, Melanie Penzien Altar: Carol Zeile

Coffee: Coaline Luplow

Peace Calendar

Tomorrow, Dec. 25 Church Office Closed (Merry Christmas!) Sunday, Dec. 27 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Divine Service - First Sunday after Christmas 10:45 a.m. **Fellowship** 11:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study, NO Sunday School **Divine Service – Feast of The Holy Innocents** Monday, Dec. 28 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 39 Divine Service – Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30 6:00 p.m. "Christian History" Study 7:00 p.m. Divine Service - Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist Thursday, Dec. 31 Together in the Word 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Divine Service – Feast of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus Friday, Jan. 1 Church Office Closed (Happy New Year!) Sunday, Jan. 3 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Divine Service – Second Sunday after Christmas (Installation of New Officers) 10:45 a.m. **Fellowship** 11:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Sunday School Monday, Jan. 4 7:00 p.m. Ladies Guild Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 5 7:00 p.m. Church Council Wednesday, Jan. 6 6:00 p.m. "Christian History" Study 7:00 p.m. Divine Service – The Epiphany of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Together in the Word Thursday, Jan. 7 5:00 p.m. Weight Watchers

Reminders & Notices

- 1. During Divine Service on January 3, we will install our newly elected congregational officers (Chris Brown - President; Gary Miller - Financial Secretary; Miguel Ortiz - Bd. of Elders; Daren Johnson - Bd. of Trustees; Janice Sager and Andrea Elliott – Bd. of Christian Education).
- 2. We would like to extend our thanks to all who purchased poinsettias to decorate our altar this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!



"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"