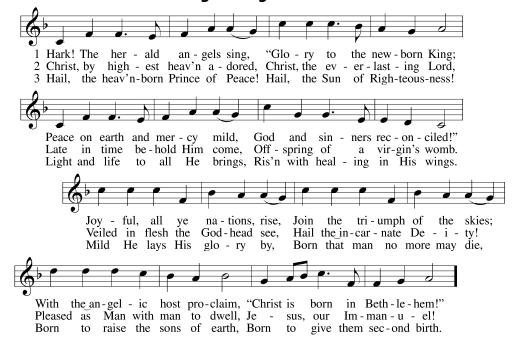
Opening Hymn

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing





Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

Responsive Litany – The Light of Christ – (Please Stand) Choir: Love's Pure Light

- P For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.
 - Christ is our light and the source of evaluating hope.
- P For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.
 - Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace
- P For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.
 - Christ is our light and the source of everlæting joy.
- **P** For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.
 - C Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Candle Lighting

Congregation & Choir: "Love's Pure Light"

O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and end this gloom of night. Bring hope to the world, bring peace to the earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

Closing Prayer:

P: Gracious God, tonight as we gather together to conclude our Advent journey, we celebrate that a new light has dawned. A child is born and that child is our light and the source of our joy. He brings hope into the world, and the promise of peace on earth. He is love incarnate, love divine, and we thank you dear Lord for this, the most perfect gift imaginable. Joy to the world! Christ is born! Amen.

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

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
 - who made heaven and earth.
 - If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and

lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the H Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 - C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text

P: When all was still, and it was midnight,

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

P: Why do the nations rage

C: and the peoples plot in vain?

P: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,

C: against the LORD and against his anointed.

P: He who sits in the heavens laughs;

C: the Lord holds them in derision.

P: Then he will speak to them in his wrath,

C: and terrify them in his fury, saying,

P: "As for me, I have set my King

C: on Zion, my holy hill."

ALL: 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.

P: When all was still, and it was midnight,

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

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis

- And peace to all the earth;
 Goodwill from God in heaven
 Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
 We praise and bless You, Father;
 Your holy name, we sing—
 Our thanks for Your great glory,
 Lord God, our heav'nly King.
 - 2 To You, O sole-begotten,
 The Father's Son, we pray;
 O Lamb of God, our Savior,
 You take our sins away.
 Have mercy on us, Jesus;
 Receive our heartfelt cry,
 Where You in pow'r are seated
 At God's right hand on high—
 - 3 For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High, In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

P Let us pray:

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.

Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2–7

2 The 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.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

P: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for he has done marvelous things!

Vocal Choir: Messiah

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

Alleluia and Verse

- C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen.





Sermon Title: "Commitment Issues"

Sermon Text: Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Samuel Bobby

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, C 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.

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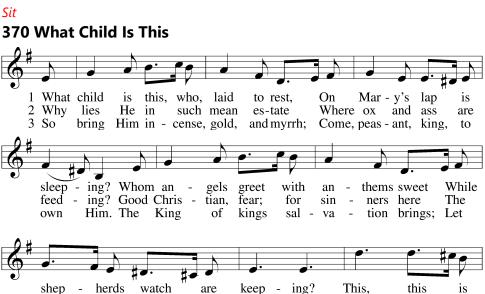
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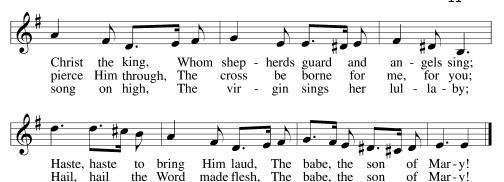
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Stand

Benedicamus

Joy,

A Let us bless the Lord.

for Christ

is

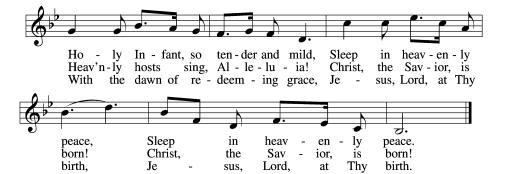
Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
- C Amen.

363 Silent Night, Holy Night





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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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