**welcome**

**prelude**

**GATHERING SONG: What Child Is This #296**

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,**

**on Mary's lap is sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet**

**while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the king,**

**whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**

**haste, haste to bring him laud,**

**the babe, the son of Mary!**

**2 Why lies he in such mean estate**

**where ox and ass are feeding?**

**Good Christian, fear; for sinners here**

**the silent Word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear shall pierce him through,**

**the cross be borne for me, for you;**

**hail, hail the Word made flesh,**

**the babe, the son of Mary!**

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;**

**come, peasant, king, to own him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings;**

**let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high,**

**the virgin sings her lullaby;**

**joy, joy, for Christ is born,**

**the babe, the son of Mary!**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**-1-**

**Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
  6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]   
  10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.  
  14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. 15(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ”) 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**: **Away in a Manger #277**

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,**

**the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;**

**the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,**

**the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,**

**but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.**

**I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky**

**and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay**

**close by me forever and love me, I pray.**

**Bless all the dear children in your tender care**

**and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

**-2-**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*P: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.*

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm’s way and those risking danger for the sake of others.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.*

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**-3-**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let pray together.

**Gracious God,**

**you came to us as one unknown,**

**bringing joy and salvation to the earth.**

**Nourish us at your banquet table,**

**that with all who welcome your birth**

**we may proclaim your peace,**

**revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh

you have opened the eyes of faith

to a new and radiant vision of your glory,

that, beholding the God made visible,

we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**-4-**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**LORDS 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.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.

Come meet Christ in this meal.

**COMMUNION**

**TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

**-5-**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let pray together.

**We give you thanks, gracious God,**

**that you have once again fed us from your very self**

**with the body and blood of Christ.**

**Through this mystery, send us forth**

**to proclaim your promise to a world in need,**

**through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God,

who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,

proclaimed joy through the angels,

sent the shepherds with good news,

and led the magi by a star,

bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: Silent Night, Holy Night! #281**

**1 Silent night, holy night!**

**All is calm, all is bright**

**round yon virgin mother and child.**

**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,**

**sleep in heavenly peace,**

**sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2 Silent night, holy night!**

**Shepherds quake at the sight;**

**glories stream from heaven afar,**

**heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!**

**Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3 Silent night, holy night!**

**Son of God, love's pure light**

**radiant beams from your holy face,**

**with the dawn of redeeming grace,**

**Jesus, Lord, at your birth,**

**Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**-8-**