**December 31, 2022 + First Saturday of Christmas**

*Order of Service: Evening Prayer*

Welcome to Trinity

393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 Infant holy,
 Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
 Oxen lowing,
 Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Swiftly winging,
 Angels singing,
 Bells are ringing,
 Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping,
 Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
 Saw the glory,
 Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing,
 Free from sorrow,
 Praises voicing,
 Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.; Polish
Text: Public domain

L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

L Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C **and the day is almost over.**

L Let Your light scatter the darkness

C **and illumine Your Church.**

Thanksgiving for Light

L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 30:15–17

15For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;
 in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”
But you were unwilling, 16and you said,
“No! We will flee upon horses”;
 therefore you shall flee away;
and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;
 therefore your pursuers shall be swift.
17A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;
 at the threat of five you shall flee,
till you are left
 like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,
 like a signal on a hill.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading Romans 8:31b–39

If God is for us, who can be against us? 32He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading Luke 12:35–40

35[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 36and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. 37Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. 38If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! 39But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. 40You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1 “Wake, awake, for night is flying,”
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
 “Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
 “Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take!
 Alleluia!
With bridal care
Yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
And all her heart with joy is springing;
 She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
 Her star is ris’n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessèd One,
Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,
 Hail! Hosanna!
We enter all
The wedding hall
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

3 Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee,
Let saints and angels sing before Thee
 With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal,
 We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light,
No ear has heard the might
 Of Thy glory;
Therefore will we
Eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Litany LSB 249

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace of the whole world in places like Ukraine, Kosovo, India, and China, and for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For President Biden and for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us. We pray for Louise Galbraith, Crawford County Director of Veteran Affairs. That they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, especially on the Spies farm, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord’s Prayer LSB 251

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

588 Jesus Loves Me sts. 1, ref, 2

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
 Little ones to Him belong;
 They are weak, but He is strong. *Refrain*

**Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

2 Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven’s gates to open wide.
 He has washed away my sin,
 Lets His little child come in. *Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
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Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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