

**Service at the First Sunday after Christmas
and last day of the year 2023**

Today we sing the liturgy according to familiar Christmas melodies.
The numbers (#) refer to hymn numbers in our red hymnal.
Pastor); C (congregation)

Ringing of the Bell - Prelude 1

Welcome

P: Because Christ has been born in the world,
C: people who walked in darkness now see the light.

Because Christ has been born in the world,
the power to oppress and hate will not stand.

Because Christ has been born in the world, we respond in wonder:

With the angels, we sing glory to God;

With the shepherds, we share the good news;

With Mary, we ponder the word that has come into the world:

Immanuel – God with us.

Hymn: # 275, *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: and also with you

Psalm 126 spoken alternately:

P: I lift up my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from?

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

P: He will not let your foot slip he who watches over you will not slumber;

C: indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

P: The LORD watches over you the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

C: the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

P: The LORD will keep you from all harm he will watch over your life;

C: the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Kyrie and Hymn of Praise (tune: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*)

Lord, have mercy on your people, Christ have mercy on your people.

Lord have mercy now we pray, as we rejoice this Christmas Day.

Now accept the praise we bring, as to the newborn Lord we sing.

Glory be to God on high, peace, good will to all on earth.

Now we praise you, bless and worship,

And give thanks to Jesus' birth.

Prayer of the Day

Reading from the New Testament, Galatians 4, 4 – 7: *A new world is possible.*

Gospel: Luke 2: 22 – 40: My eyes have seen the light

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: # 284, *Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

The offering is gathered. Thank you.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

