

**OUR WORSHIP**

December 31, 2006 - THE COMMON SERVICE – Christmas One

*Found on page 15 in the front of Christian Worship*

**Opening Hymn – “Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn”**

CW49

*P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*C: (sing) Amen*

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

*P: Beloved in the Lord; let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.*

*C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.*

**Lord, Have Mercy**

*C: (sing) Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.*

*P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*C: (sing) Amen.*

**PRAYER AND PRAISE**

*P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.*

*C: (sing) Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

*We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,  
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King.  
God the Father al-mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;*

*O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the  
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the*

*sin of the world; receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father;  
have mercy on us. For you only are holy; you only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the  
Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.*

**Prayer of the Day**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

*C: (sing) And also with you.*

*P: Let us pray.*

*C: (sing) Amen*

## **THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Lesson – Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 – “The Consecration of the Firstborn”**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>"Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal." <sup>3a</sup>Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. <sup>11</sup>"After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your forefathers, <sup>12</sup>you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. <sup>13</sup>Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons. <sup>14</sup>"In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>15</sup>When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.'

### **Psalm of the Day – 96 on page 102 in the front of Lutheran Worship**

### **Epistle Lesson – Colossians 3:12-17 – “Let the Word Dwell in You Richly”**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in work or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Verse of the Day**

**C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Gospel – Luke 2:21-40 After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:**

**C: (sing) Glory be to you, O Lord!**

<sup>21</sup>On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. <sup>22</sup>When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup>"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup>For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the sight of all people, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup>Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all

who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.



*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

**C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!**

### **Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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 everlasting. Amen.

### **Sermon Carol**

### **“See Mary Setting Out at Dawn”**

Tune: CW16 Text: Jaroslav Vajda © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission

See Mar - y set - ting out at dawn for Z - ion with her  
 There faith - ful Mar - y, meek, de - mure, has come to be ac -  
 When Mar - y brings Mes - si - ah there, God an - swers Si - meon's  
 Be - cause she brings the Sav - ior there, grey An - na has a  
 All have some spec - ial part to play in God's e - ter - nal

six - week Son, and Jo - seph, tur - tle doves in hand, to  
 - know - ledged pure, then ded - i - cates the Ho - ly One by  
 life - long prayer for peace for him and ev - 'ry - one who  
 Gift to share. Had she not prayed, "Your will be done," who  
 plan who pray, in heav'n, so here "Your will be done" at

car - ry out the Lord's com - mand.  
 whom God's per - fect will is done.  
 prays in faith, "Your will be done."  
 would have met and known God's Son?  
 ev - 'ry ris - ing of the sun.



### **Sermon**

### **Destiny's Child**

**Luke 2:33-40**

**Response:** *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

*(sing) Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

**Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.**

## Offering

## Prayer of the Church

## Lord's Prayer

## Carol

### "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

Tune: CW2 Text Edward Caswall, Public Domain



See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,  
Hail, O ev - er bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!  
Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,



See the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
Sing through all Jer - u - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.

*P: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

*C: (sing) Amen*

## Blessing

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you.*

*The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.*

*The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.*

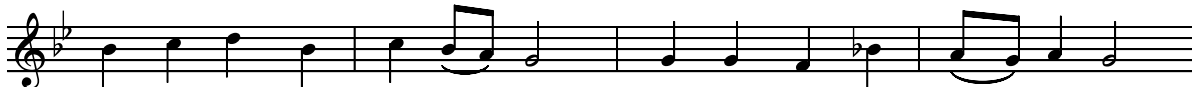
*C: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.*

## Closing Carol

### "See Amid the Winter's Snow"



Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,  
Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!  
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee in Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty