

*Celebrating 141 years of God's Blessings*

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**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY...**

Before we begin, please:

+ **Sign in the "Fellowship Pad"**, and pass it down your pew. Both visitors and members are asked to fill in their information. You can do this before the service, or during the offering.

+ **Place ribbon bookmarks** at the page for liturgy, and one of the hymns in *Lutheran Service Book*.

+ **Place ribbon bookmarks** at the pages of the Scripture readings in the pew Bibles, if you wish to follow along.

+ **Introduce yourself** to our Pastor, if it's your first time with us; and all are encouraged to greet and get to know their fellow worshipers.

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*In Holy Communion, we joyfully receive Christ's Body & Blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. In participating, we publicly confess our unity in Christ's Body, and a harmony of teaching and practice. Congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have promised to practice close communion. Guests who desire to commune with us for the first time are asked to speak with the pastor before the service, to answer any questions you may have. You may also wish to review Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers," on pp. 329-330 in Lutheran Service Book, and refer to the "Before worship" and "Before communing" prayers inside the front cover of LSB.*

*If you are not in fellowship with our Synod, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Simply indicate that by folding your arms over your heart while at the communion rail.*

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**GOD'S WORD TODAY**

*John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah*

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15-19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39-56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19-28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4-7).

**INTROIT**

Your decrees are very 'trustworthy;\*  
holiness befits your house, O LORD, for - 'evermore.

**Your throne is established 'from of old;\*  
you are from ever- 'lasting.**

The LORD reigns; he is robed in 'majesty;\*  
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength 'as his belt.

**Yes, the world is es- 'tablished;\*  
it shall nev- 'er be moved.**

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted 'up their voice;\* the floods lift up their 'roaring.

**Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves 'of the sea,\* the LORD on high is 'mighty!**

Your decrees are very 'trustworthy;\*  
Holiness befits your house, O LORD, for - 'evermore.

**Your throne is established 'from of old;\*  
You are from ever- 'lasting.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**STEWARDSHIP SENTENCES FROM SYNOD**

"And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." The Name of Jesus means "the Lord Saves." There is no better way to end or begin a year than with the sweet comfort of the Name of Jesus. He saves us. He loves us. He desires to bless us. That assurance is the basis for all we do in our Christian lives, in the realm of stewardship and in every realm.

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after  
Christmas**

December 31, 2017

**Order of Service**

*Lutheran Service Book  
Divine Service, setting three*

<b>PRELUDE</b>	
<b>HYMN</b>	p.367
"Angels from the realms of Glory"	
μ <b>LITURGY</b>	p.184
μ <b>INTROIT</b>	bulletin p.3
μ <b>COLLECT OF THE DAY</b>	bulletin p.3
<b>OLD TESTAMENT</b> Isaiah 11:1-5	p.732
<b>EPISTLE</b> Galatians 4:1-7	p.1238
μ <b>VERSE</b>	
μ <b>GOSPEL</b> Luke 2:22-40	p.1090
μ <b>NICENE CREED</b>	p.191
<b>HYMN OF THE DAY</b>	p.389
"Let All Together Praise Our God"	
<b>SERMON</b>	
μ <b>OFFERTORY</b>	p.192
<b>OFFERING</b>	
μ <b>PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH</b>	p.193
μ <b>COMMUNION LITURGY</b>	p.194
<b>DISTRIBUTION HYMNS</b>	
"Away in a Manger"	p.364
"The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"	p.624
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"	p.384
μ <b>POST COMMUNION CANTICLE</b>	p.199
<i>Nunc Dimittis</i>	
μ <b>BENEDICTION</b>	
<b>CLOSING HYMN</b>	p.387
"Joy to the World"	
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	