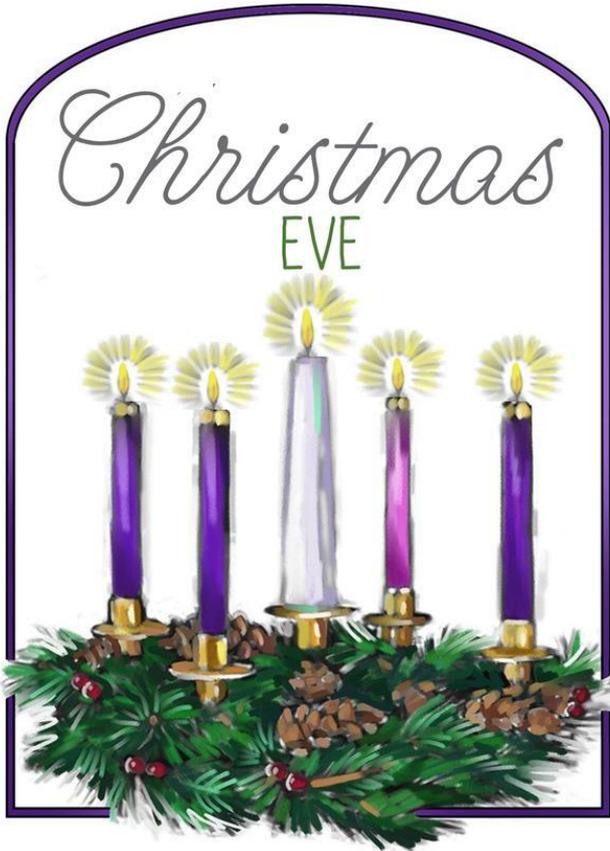


# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AT MIDNIGHT

December 24, 2025 at 11:00 p.m.



*Immanuel Lutheran Church  
154 Meadow Street  
Bristol, CT 06010  
Tel: 860-583-5649  
[www.ilcs.org](http://www.ilcs.org)*

***Welcome in the name of our newborn King!  
We pray that this evening's worship  
strengthen you during this blessed Christmas season!***



STEWARDSHIP BIBLE VERSE FOR DECEMBER 24, 2025

**Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”**

What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God’s Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus’ love has done!

*There will be no announcements before the service. When the organ begins the hymn, please stand and face the processional cross as it enters.*

## Hymn of Invocation:

#386 *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*



1 Now sing we, now re-joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
2 Come from on high to me;      I can-not rise to Thee.  
3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa-ther's grace di-vine.  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n-ly ground?



He from whom joy stream-eth      Poor in a man-ger lies;  
Cheer my wea-ried spir-it,      O pure and ho-ly Child;  
Death was reign-ing o'er us      Through sin and van-i-ty  
Where the an-gels sing-ing      With all His saints u-nite,



Not so bright-ly beam-eth      The sun in yon-der skies.  
Through Thy grace and mer-it,      Blest Je-sus, Lord most mild,  
Till He o-pened for us      A bright e-ter-ni-ty.  
Sweet-est prais-es bring-ing      In heav'n-ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav-ior art!      Thou my Sav-ior art!  
Draw me un-to Thee!      Draw me un-to Thee!  
May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!  
Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.  
Tune: German, 14th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Confession & Absolution

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,  
 C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

*Stand*

**Introit**

*Psalm 2:7b, 1*



The LORD hath said unto Me, Thou | art My Son;\*  
 This day have I be- | gotten Thee.  
 Why do the | heathen rage,\*  
 And the people imagine a | vain thing?



☩ Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



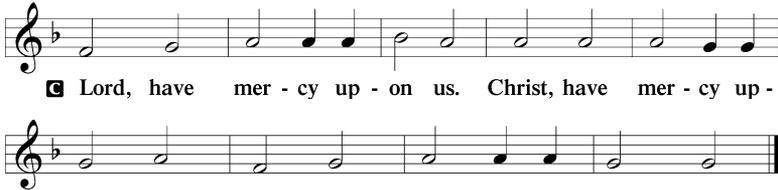
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.



The LORD hath said unto Me, Thou | art My Son;\*  
 This day have I be- | gotten Thee.

# Kyrie

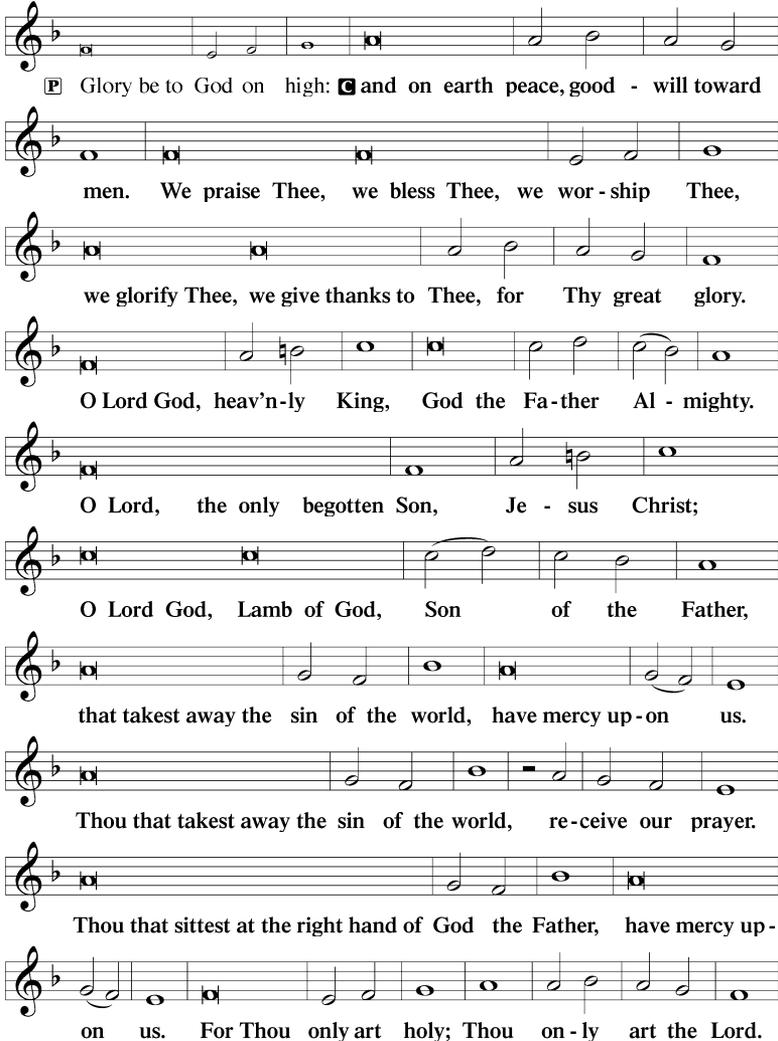
LSB 186



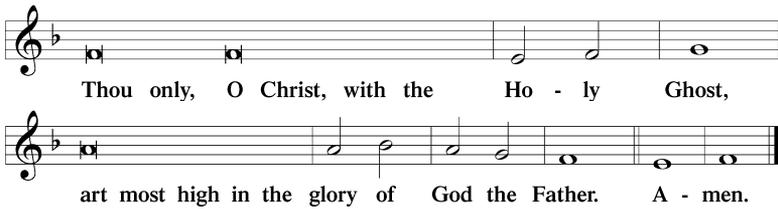
**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

# Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -  
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** O God, who hast made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: grant, we beseech Thee, that, as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of its joys in heaven; who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.



**G** A - men.

*Sit*

**Prophecy**

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7a*

**A** The Prophecy for the Nativity of our Lord at Midnight is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter nine.

Thus saith the Lord God: “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His





## Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory  
to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian  
and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

## Hymn of the Day:

#360 *All My Heart Again Rejoices*



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near  
2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,  
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave  
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing  
Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,  
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en  
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.  
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

- 5 Softly from His lowly manger  
Jesus calls  
One and all,  
"You are safe from danger.  
Children, from the sins that grieve you  
You are freed;  
All you need  
I will surely give you."
- 6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!  
One and all,  
Great and small,  
Come with songs of gladness.  
We shall live with Him forever  
There on high  
In that joy  
Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Stand*

## Offertory

LSB 192

**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

*Sit*

## Offering

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

### Preface

LSB 194

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**Proper Preface**

*LSB 194*

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising  
You and saying:

**Sanctus**

*LSB 195*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 196*



**P** Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who

tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to  
temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.

**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

## The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,  
and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the  
dis - ci - ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My bod - y, which is giv - en for you.  
This do in re - mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so  
He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv - en thanks, He gave it  
to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in  
My blood, which is shed for you for the for - give - ness of sins.  
This do, as often as you drink it, in re - mem - brance of Me."

## Pax Domini

LSB 197



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

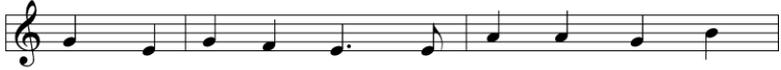
## Distribution

**Distribution Hymn:**

*#358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,  
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.  
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'n's and earth were made.'

- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!  
 Then with the shepherds let us go  
 To see what God for us has done  
 In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your  
 eyes,  
 And see what in the manger lies.  
 Who is this child, so young and fair?  
 It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
 Through whom the sinful world is  
 blest!  
 You came to share my misery  
 That You might share Your joy with  
 me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,  
 How weak You are, so poor and small,  
 That You should choose to lay Your  
 head  
 Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair  
 And set with gold and jewels rare,  
 It would be far too poor and small  
 A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff  
 You have but hay and straw so rough  
 On which as King, so rich and great,  
 To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see  
 This simple truth revealed to me:  
 That worldly honor, wealth, and  
 might  
 Are weak and worthless in Your  
 sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
 A quiet chamber set apart  
 For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
 My lips no more can silence keep.  
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
 That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
 While angels sing with pious mirth  
 A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann  
 Text and tune: Public domain

# Distribution Hymn:

# #380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



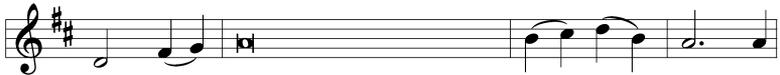
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
 Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47  
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

### Thanksgiving

LSB 200

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**G** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** A - men.

*The candles are lit during the following hymn.*

# Candlelight Hymn:

# #363 Silent Night, Holy Night



1 Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht Nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
 all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, is  
 love's pure light Ra - diantbeams from Thy ho - ly face



Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, Schlaf in himm - li - scher  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



Ruh, Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
 peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85  
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863  
 Text and tune: Public domain

# Salutation

LSB 201



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

LSB 202



**A** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 202



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



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

# Hymn to Depart:

#387 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book  
 Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the King James Bible.  
 Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.