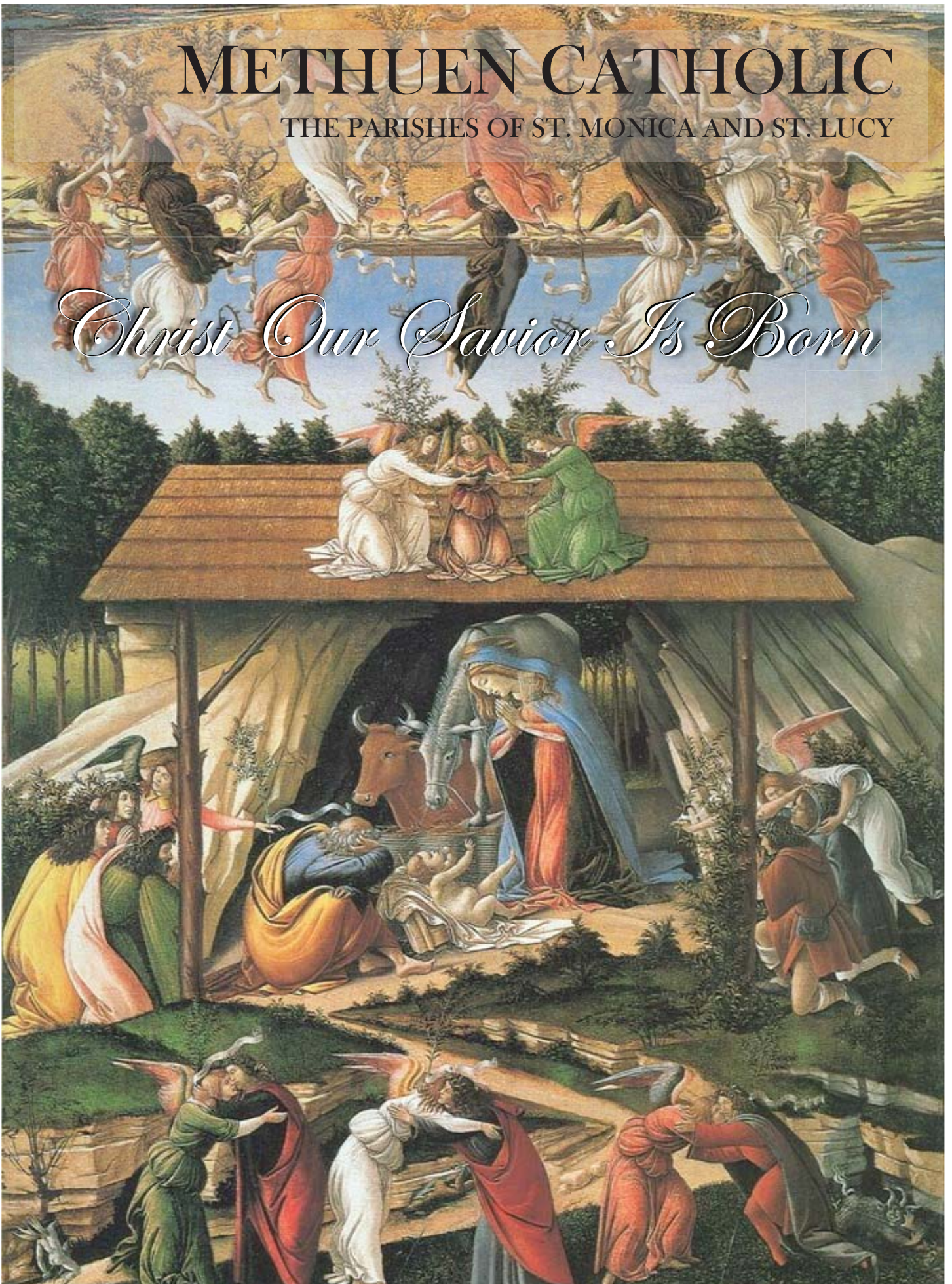


METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

Christ Our Savior Is Born



MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 4 pm St. Monica & St. Lucy
 SUNDAY 9 am & 11 am St. Monica | 10 am St. Lucy
 DAILY MASS is held at St. Lucy's at 9am (except Wednesday)
 FIRST SATURDAY MASS is held at St. Monica's at 9am

Holy Mass "is the sun of Christianity, the soul of faith, the center of the Catholic religion, wherein are beheld all her rites, all her ceremonies, and all her Sacraments; in fine, it is the compendium of all the good and beautiful to be found in the Church of God."
 -St. Leonard of Port Maurice

ST. MONICA PARISH

Sunday, December 26

9:00am Stephen Campagnone
 John Rosatone
 Mary Biffin
 Gaetano DiStefano
 Joseph O'Neil

11:00 AM Robert Putnam

Saturday, January 1

9:00am First Sat Mass
 Mary the Mother of God

ST. LUCY PARISH

Sunday, December 26

10:00am Catherine Petralia
 Real Taschereau
 Thomas Wholley, Jr.
 Gerard Lebel

Monday, December 27

9:00am Paul Dionne

Tuesday, December 28

9:00am Robert T. Deshaies, Sr.

Thursday, December 30

9:00am Richard Ferguson

Friday, December 31

9:00am Kurt Paul Schindler



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Joan I, David M, Rick T, Dianne T, Nick K, and Audrey K.

Please pray for all those whose Funeral Masses we celebrated throughout this year at our parishes. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

| DAY | DATE | PRIEST | SEMINAR. |
|---------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sunday | 12/26/21 | Fr. Stephen Donohoe | Diego Mendoza |
| Monday | 12/27/21 | Fr. John E. Kelly | Moises Franchi |
| Tuesday | 12/28/21 | Fr. James Laughlin | Alexander Del-tirado |
| Wed | 12/29/21 | Fr. Thomas F. Powers | Christopher Barton |
| Thurs | 12/30/21 | Fr. Phillip Earley | Alden Bronson |
| Friday | 12/31/21 | Fr. David Mullen | Joseph Jasinski |
| Sat | 01/01/22 | Pope Francis | All Seminarians |

CONFESSIONS

WED 6:00-7:00pm St. Lucy Parish
 FRI 4:00-5:00pm Gethsemane Chapel
 SAT 3:00-3:45pm St. Monica & St. Lucy
and by appointment



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 Temporary Hrs M-Th, 11:30am-4:30pm | Fr, 9am-2pm

The Christmas Narrative of Our Lord's Birth includes within it many journeys on behalf of the Word of God. For example, immediately following the Angel Gabriel's Annunciation to Mary that she would bear the Christ Child, the Blessed Mother journeyed in haste to the hill country west of Jerusalem to visit her cousin Elizabeth, herself miraculously pregnant with St. John the Baptist. At the time of the Nativity, Mary and Joseph journeyed under difficult circumstances to Bethlehem. The Wise Men journeyed from a distant land in the east to see the newborn King. The Holy Family even journeyed to Egypt for the safety of Our Lord in his childhood.

This pattern of journeys continued with Our Lord's own preaching of the Gospel throughout the Holy Land. Once commissioned by Him, the Apostles travel all throughout the ancient world, all but one of them martyred, to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Finally, throughout history, missionaries went to unknown lands to bring the name of Jesus Christ to people who had yet to hear it. Some of the most famous and sacrificing of these were Jesuits who went to every continent, even when unwelcome, to repeat the same message that the angels spoke to the shepherd's in the fields on that first Christmas: "Today for you is born a Savior."

The question is: Why? Why so much zeal, dedication, and sacrifice—even martyrdom—to spread the Good News. The answer is simple: because all of the great missionaries from Apostolic times to modern times were convinced that one had to know Jesus Christ to be saved. Regardless of how God judges the souls of those who've never heard the Gospel, these individuals all burned with the conviction that knowledge of the Gospel isn't just nice to have for a better life, or even the best option among several to answer the myriad questions of life, but that He is **necessary** for personal salvation. As we come to Mass to honor the birth of the Savior, that's a question to ask ourselves: In my labor and my leisure, in my closest relationships, in my mind and in my heart, and in my journey of life to stand before God, is Christ necessary? The answer to that question determines whether He is merely for me Savior in name or, rather, Savior in fact for my life.

A Blessed Christmas to You and Your Loved Ones.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you for your generosity and support. Because of you, we were able to collect **\$7,350.00** in gift cards for 96 children and meals for over 60 families. The families we serve truly appreciate the assistance your donations provided. Merry Christmas!

PROJECT BETHLEHEM

Many thanks to all who donated gift cards to support PROJECT BETHLEHEM for Lazarus House Ministry. I am thrilled to announce we collected **\$4,115.00**. They were overwhelmed and grateful for the generosity shown by St. Lucy's Parish. Thank you for all of your support and God bless you and your families this Holy Season.

HOLY HOUR AND ROSARY TO COMBAT ADDICTION



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021

at 6:00 PM

at St. Lucy Church

254 Merrimack Street

Methuen, MA

Whether you suffer with an addiction, are the family member or friend of someone with an addiction, or just someone who cares, please come and pray with us.

All are invited

regardless of parish or religious affiliation.

EUCCHARIST ADORATION SCHEDULE

Wednesdays | 6:00 pm | St. Lucy

Fridays | 2-5pm | Gethsemane Chapel

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

24-25 DECEMBER 2021

INTROIT*Isaiah 9:6*

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world.

Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. † Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, †
 3. † Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, †
 4. Ad - é - ste fi - dé - les, lae - ti tri - um - phán - tes, Ve -

1. come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2. Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
 3. Je - sus, to thee — be all glo - ry giv'n;
 4. ní - te, ve - ní - te in Béth - le - hem.

1. Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2. Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 3. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;
 4. Na - tum vi - dé - te Re - gem an - ge - ló - rum.

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O
 Ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus, ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus, ve -

come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!
 ní - te, a - do - ré - mus Dó - mí - num.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card*FIRST READING*Isaiah 9:1-6*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Luke 2:11*

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.

SECOND READING*Titus 2:11-14*

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

ALLELUIA*Luke 2:10-11*

✠ I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.

GOSPEL*Luke 2:1-14*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

PROFESSION OF FAITH*Refer to Pew Card*OFFERTORY HYMN*The First Nowell*

1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say Was to
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing
 3. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing

1. cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
 2. in the east, be - yond them far; And to the
 3. prais - es to our heav'n - ly Lord; Who has made

1. they lay tend - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that
 2. earth it gave great light, And so it con - tin - ued both
 3. heav'n and earth of naught, And with his blood man

1. was so deep.
 2. day and night. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,
 3. kind has bought.

Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI*Refer to Pew Card*COMMUNION HYMN*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight!

For Christ is born of Mary,
 And gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wond'ring love.
 O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing to God the King,
 And peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming,
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive him,
 still The dear Christ enters in.



COMMUNION HYMN*Away In A Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

COMMUNION HYMN*Silent Night*

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace. | Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!" | Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. |
|---|--|--|

RECESSIONAL HYMN*Joy to the World*

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth re -
2. Joy to the world! The Sav - ior reigns; Let men their
3. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the

1. ceive her King; Let eve - ry heart pre - pare him
2. songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
3. na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous -

1. room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
2. plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
3. ness, And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

1. sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
2. joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
3. love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

26 DECEMBER 2021

INTROIT*Luke 2:16*

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*Angels We Have Heard on High*

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man-ger laid Whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



1. And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
2. Say what may the tid - ings be Which in-spire your heav'n-ly song.
3. Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
4. Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card*FIRST READING*Sirach 3: 2-6, 12,-14*

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins — a house raised in justice to you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 84: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10*

℟. [Bless - ed are they,] bless - ed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

SECOND READING*Colossians 3:12-21*

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

ALLELUIA*Luke 2:10-11*

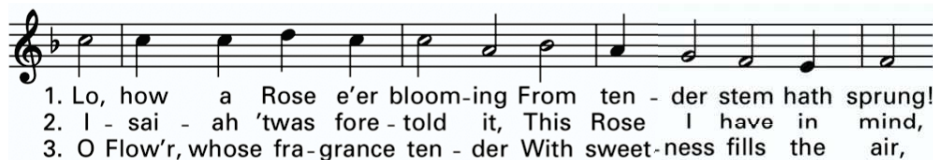
¶ Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.


GOSPEL*Luke 2:1-14*

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.


PROFESSION OF FAITH*Refer to Pew Card***SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI***Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Barch 3:38*

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.


COMMUNION HYMN*Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming*



1. Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing, As those of old have sung.
 2. With Ma-ry we be-hold it, The Vir-gin Moth-er kind.
 3. Dis-pel in glo-rious splen-dor The dark-ness ev-'ry-where;



1. It came, a flow-er bright, A-mid the
 2. To show God's love a-right, She bore to
 3. True man, yet ver-y God, From sin and



1. cold of win-ter, When half spent was the night.
 2. us a Sav-ior, When half spent was the night.
 3. death now save us, And share our ev-'ry load.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*Hark, The Herald Angels Sing*

Verses



1. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing: "Glo-ry to the
 2. Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored, Christ, the ev-er-
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



1. new-born King; Peace on earth, and mer-cy mild,
 2. last-ing Lord; Late in time, be-hold him come,
 3. Righ-teous-ness! Light and life to all he brings,



1. God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!" Joy-ful, all ye
 2. Off-spring of a vir-gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 3. Ris'n with heal-ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



1. na-tions, rise, Join the tri-umph of the skies; With an-
 2. God-head see! Hail th'in-car-nate De-i-ty! Pleased as
 3. glo-ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to



1. gel-ic hosts pro-claim: "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
 2. man with us to dwell; Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el!
 3. raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec-ond birth.

Refrain



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

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