

# Our Saviour Lutheran Church



The Nativity of Our Lord  
Midnight Mass  
24 December 2012



**The people who walked in darkness have seen  
a great light.**

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The Parsonage, 65 Furzehall Avenue, Fareham, PO16 8UD  
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### **A note to visitors**

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

Please also record your visit in the visitors' book at the back. If you would like a phone call or a pastoral visit, speak to the pastor or leave a note in the visitors' book.

**The Offering**

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

### **Children in the Service**

It is a delight and a privilege to have children in the service. Children as much as adults are members of God's family and Jesus welcomes little children to Him.

Please do not worry if your child will not sit still or quietly throughout the service. Most young children won't manage that! There is plenty of space at the back of the room. If you do need to take a child outside, the smaller room is available for that purpose.

### **Holy Communion**

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, we eat and drink the true body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and the wine, according to Jesus' own words. We also believe that those who participate in Holy Communion in a particular congregation should be in agreement in the confession of the faith.

Therefore, we ask that only those who are instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's spiritual care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

If you are visiting us and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor *before the service*. Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Our teaching on this matter is explained in more detail in the little leaflet, 'Why Closed Communion?', which is available at the back of the church.

**Thank you for honouring our beliefs.**

### ***A note on the service:***

*Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.*

*The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.*

*It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this bulletin.*

### ***Explanation of Symbols:***

- C** Congregation
- P** Pastor (ordained)
- A** Assistant minister (ordained or lay)
- L** Liturgist (ordained or lay)
- ✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.
- ❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

**377 Hymn: On Christmas Night All Christians Sing**

**184 Confession and Absolution**

**Introit** (Ps. 2:1,2, 4-6; antiphon: liturgical text)



**A** When all was still, and it was | midnight,\*  
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended  
from the | royal throne.

**C** **Why do the | nations rage\*  
and the peoples | plot in vain?**

**A** The kings of the earth set themselves, and  
the rulers take counsel to- | gether,\*  
against the LORD and against his  
A- | noointed.

**C** **He who sits in the | heavens laughs;\*  
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.**

**A** Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,\*  
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,

**C** **“As for me, I have | set my King\*  
on Zion, my | holy hill.”**

❖ **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit,  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

**A** When all was still, and it was | midnight,\*  
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended  
from the | royal throne.

**186 Gloria Patri**

**186 Kyrie**

**187 Gloria in excelsis**

**189 Salutation and Collect of the Day**

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**The Readings**

***The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness***

Heaven and earth rejoice on this night because the glory of the Triune God is manifested in the human birth of “*our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ*” (Titus 2:13). In Him, the Father’s grace, mercy and peace rest upon the world. The silence of death is broken by this “*good news of great joy that will be for all the people*” (Luke 2:10). And all we who have gone astray like lost and wandering sheep, who have “*walked in the darkness*” of doubt and fear and sinful unbelief, behold “*a great light*” in the nativity of Christ (Is. 9:2). In Him “*the grace of God has appeared*” (Titus 2:11). For

this Child of Mary who is born for us, this dear Son of God who is given to us, will bear the burden of our sin and death in His own body on the cross. He thereby establishes a government of peace, “*with justice and with righteousness*”, which shall have no end; not by any work of man, but “*the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this*” (Is. 9:7).

### Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 9:2–7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### Gradual (*Ps. 93:3b–4a, 2*)

**☐ All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.\***

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth.**

**The LORD has made known his sal- | va- tion;\***

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.**

### Epistle Reading—Titus 2:11–14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

### Alleluia & Verse (*Ps. 95:1a, 6b*)



**☐ Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia.**





(tumour); Ronnie (cancer); Lisa & children (cancer); Steve (cancer); Carol (cancer); Baby Thomas (operation); Christine (recovering from operation); Karina and family of †Alexey

## **ELCE**

Boor family (St. Andrew's)

## **The Church of God**

Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Christians in the Middle East

# **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD**

## **SMALCALD ARTICLES**

### **FIRST PART**

### **The Sublime Articles**

#### **Concerning the Divine Majesty:**

1. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one divine essence and nature, are one God, who has created heaven and earth.

2. The Father is begotten of no one; the Son is begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeds from Father and Son.

3. Neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit, but the Son became man.

4. That the Son became man in this manner: He was conceived, without the co-operation of man, by the Holy Spirit, and was born of the pure, holy Virgin Mary. Afterwards, He suffered, died, was buried, descended to hell, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, sits at the right hand of God, will come to judge the quick and the dead, and so on, as the Apostles' and Athanasian Creeds and our children's catechism teach.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### The Week Ahead

25 Dec	10am	Christmas Morning Divine Service (Scout Hall)
30 Dec	10.30am	Morning Service (Scout Hall)

### Further ahead

3 Jan	12.30pm	Pastor's Surgery at The Hub
6 Jan	10.30am	Divine Service—Epiphany (Scout Hall)
	4.30pm	Confirmation Service at Brighton Lutheran Mission
10 Jan	10.30am	Bible study (The Parsonage)

### ***Next Sunday's Readings:***

**Christmas Day:** *Exodus 20:17–21, 34–38; Titus 3:4–7; John 1:1–14*

**First Sunday after Christmas:** *Isaiah 11:1–5; Galatians 4:1–7; Luke 2:33–40*

### ***Daily Readings:***

Tue: *Isaiah 49:1–18 Matthew 1:1–17 Large Catechism I: 222–233*

Wed: *Is 49:22–26; 50:4–51:8, 12–16 Matt 1:18–25 LC I: 234–244*

Thu: *Is 51:17–52:12 Matt 2:1–12 LC I: 245–253*

Fri: *Is 52:13–54:10 Matt 2:13–23 LC I: 254–262*

Sat: *Is 55:1–13 Luke 1:1–25 LC I: 263–275*