

Our Saviour Lutheran Church



The Nativity of Our Lord
25 December 2013



**The word became flesh and
dwelt among us**

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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.

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 chil-

dren 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.

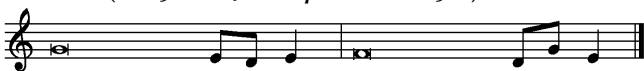
Explanation of Symbols:

C Congregation

P Pastor

✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.

❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

*Sup.12 Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful (v. 1–6)***2 Confession and Absolution***Introit (Ps. 98:1–4; antiphon: Isa. 9:6)*

A For to us a child is born, to us a son
is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his
his | shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful | Counsellor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of
Peace.

C Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he
has done | marvellous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have
worked salva- | tion for him.

A The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the
sight of the | nations.

C He has remembered his steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the
salvation | of our God.

A Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the
earth;*
break forth into joyous song and
sing | praises!

C ❖ *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 For to us a child is born, to us a son
is | given;*
and the government shall be upon
his | shoulder,

C and his name shall be called
Wonderful | Counsellor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, | Prince of Peace.

3 Kyrie & Gloria in excelsis**4 Salutation and Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-
begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from
the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Readings*The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells
among Us in the Flesh*

In the beginning God created all things through His
Word, His Son. But man fell into sin, and with man
all creation was cursed. Therefore, God spoke His
Word again, this time into the womb of the blessed

Virgin Mary. The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle of our human nature (Ex. 40:17–21, 34–38). “*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*” (John 1:1–14). The Son of God took on our flesh and blood and died on the cross in order that we might receive the right to become the children of God through faith. Baptised into Christ’s body, we are made partakers of a new Genesis, “*the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*” (Titus 3:4–7). In Christ, the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man has truly appeared.

Old Testament reading—Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38

¹⁷ In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸ Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹ And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰ He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹ And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ...

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

Gradual (Ps. 118:26a, 27a, 23)

A Blessed is he who comes in the name | of the
LORD!*

The LORD is God, and he has made his light
to shine up- | on us.

C This is the LORD’s | doing; *
it is marvellous | in our eyes.

Epistle Reading—Titus 3:4–7

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Alleluia & Verse (Liturgical Text)



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

A holy day has dawned up - on us.*

Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' with a 'P' (Psalter) symbol before the first 'Al' and a 'C' (Canticle) symbol before the second. The second staff contains 'A holy day has dawned up - on us.*' with a 'C' symbol before 'A'. The third staff contains 'Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord.' with a 'C' symbol before 'Come'. The fourth staff contains 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' with a 'C' symbol before the first 'Al'. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

Gospel Reading—John 1:1–14

L The ✠ holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord!**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ!**

Hymn: Of the Father's Love Begotten



1. Of the Fath - er's love be -
2. Oh, that birth for - ev - er
3. This is He whom seers in
4. O ye heights of heav'n ad -



got - ten Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
bless - ed, When the vir - gin full of grace,
old time Chant - ed of with one ac - cord,
ore Him; An - gel hosts, His praises sing,



He is Al - pha and O -
By the Ho - ly Ghost con -
Whom the voic - es of the
Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be -



me - ga, He the source, the end - ing He,
ceiv - ing, Bore the Sa - viour of our race,
prophets Promised in their faith - ful word.
fore Him And ex - tol our God and King.



Of the things that are, that have been,
And the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
Now He shines, the long - - ex - pec - ted;
Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,



And that fu - ture years shall
First re - vealed His sac - red
Let cre - a - tion praise its
Ev' - ry voice in con - cert



see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honour, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore

Sermon

8 Prayer of the Church

Each petition concludes:

... By Your holy incarnation,

Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

375 Hymn: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

8 The Service of the Sacrament

11 Nunc Dimittis and Post-Communion Prayers

13 Blessing

380 Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members

Ron; all who are travelling

Family of members

Diana (old age); Alex, Sarah & family; Jean (broken hip)

Friends of members

Ilse Kelly (old age); Mike (unemployed); Trevor (unemployed); Claire and Phil (health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke, breast cancer); Margaret Tustin (Alzheimer's); Phil & Karen (distress); Ginny (depression); Rob (depression); Debra (depression); Brian (depression); Dave (mental illness); Lisa & family (cancer); Ray, Doreen & family (cancer); David Webb (cancer); Bob Waters (cancer); Ruth Simpson (cancer); Ronnie (cancer); Caroline (tumour) Sally (health); Leanne (health); Beth (health); Julia (distress); Gina & family; Bim (broken hip); Boz & baby Natalia; Malcolm Groom; Hannah (bereavement)

ELCE

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bristol Lutheran Mission; Pr. Bessel; ELCE Central Office; Pr. McNally (cancer); Pr. Fry (health); Quirk family

The Church of God

International Lutheran Council; Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Fareham Community Church

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD
THE SMALCALD ARTICLES
THE 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

Daily Services at St. Francis, Funtley

No daily services

The Week Ahead

Thu-Sat *Pastor on Leave*

Sun 10.30am Divine Service (Scout Hall)

Further ahead

31 Dec 8.45am Daily services resume

1 Jan *No Bible study / Pastor's Surgery*

5 Jan 10.30am Divine Service (Scout Hall)

6-8 Jan Pastor at Westfield House (tbc)

11 Jan 5.30pm Saturday Supper

12 Jan 10.30am Divine Service (Scout Hall)

4.30pm Divine Service (Brighton)

Next Sunday's Readings:

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 2:21

Daily Readings:

Wed: Is 49:1-18 Matthew 1:1-17 *LC I: 222-233*

Thu: Is 49:22-26; 50:4-5 1:8, 12-16 Matt 1:18-25 *LC I: 234-244*

Fri: Is 51:17-52:12 Matt 2:1-12 *LC I: 245-253*

Sat: Is 52:13-54:10 Matt 2:13-23 *LC I: 254-262*

Sun: Is 55:1-13 Luke 1:1-25 *LC I: 263-275*

Have a happy and blessed Christmas!

