

**+ Hope Christmas Day Service 2023 +  
The Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Day**

**ORDER OF SERVICE: Divine Service One** Hymnal page 151

**INTRODUCTION**

**OPENING HYMN #367**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Behold Your Salvation Comes.*

*Isaiah 62:10-12*

**RESPONSE (in lieu of Psalm) Hymn #383**

*NOTE: The verses will be sung as a duet with the congregation joining in the refrain for each verse.*

**EPISTLE READING**

*“The Son is the Radiance of the Glory of God.”*

*Hebrews 1:1-6*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*The Angels’ Announcement and Visit of the Shepherds.*

*Luke 2:15-20*

**SERMON HYMN #380**

**SERMON: “Wrapped Up with Love”**

**CANTICLE: HYMN #933**

**NICENE CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**OFFERTORY HYMN #390**

**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

**COMMUNION HYMNS: #370, 364, 363, 387**

*NOTE: In the joy of Christmas it is planned to sing each of the verses to all the hymns.*

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT AND BENEDICTION**

**DISMISSAL HYMN #392**

**GUESTS.** You are certainly more than welcome and we invite you back! Each Sunday, Bible Class is offered at 8:30 a.m. with Divine Worship Service to follow at 9:30 a.m. Our services are conducted in a meaningful liturgical setting in the confessional Lutheran tradition. Since communion implies unity of faith we do not practice *open communion* but invite those not fully united with us to enter full membership in the Lutheran community **first before receiving** the Sacrament. Until that time, you may come forward for a blessing versus partaking of the body and blood of Christ.

**WHAT JOY THIS DAY!** Our Savior has come into our midst never to be separated from humanity again!! Is it any wonder that this is a high point for us and, with Easter, one of the two highest festivals in the Church year. Today we celebrate that God’s plan of salvation has been enacted and put in place. Can we not break out in joy and song? Can we not give praise and honor to our King? Can we not go out and tell others this good news? Salvation has come to us.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS OF POINSETTIAS** (names on the back bulletin cover). You have helped beautify our church for Christmas. Following the service today you may take them home. If desiring an additional poinsettia or were unable to sign-up earlier, “extras” are still able to be purchased following the service.

**JOIN US NEW YEAR’S EVE.** Of course, we will have our Divine Worship Service Next Sunday (December 31) at 9:30 a.m. And that evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m. will be Hope’s New Year’s Eve Party in the fellowship hall. A meal will be provided and everyone is invited to bring a snack to share and any games you want to play. You can come and go as you desire, and usually activities close down before 10:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the hallway bulletin board for planning purposes only.

**NEED HELP?** Remember our Care Committee is available. Please contact Wanda Wuehler (618-920-1929), Sandy Townzen (618-304-8692) or Pastor as needs arise.

**MESSAGE TODAY:** We continue and complete our theme for our 11:00 a.m. Advent Services and our daily devotions, “The Clothing of The King.” We have seen that clothing in the Bible is no small matter. It has much significance and meaning for revealing God’s plan of redemption. This morning we will look at another exchange of clothing between Jesus and us. We are told that little baby in the manger was “wrapped in swaddling cloths.” But what about you and me? Just as Jesus was wrapped in swaddling cloths, He wraps us in His love. And that makes a difference in all we do. This morning we will look at this in a message entitled, “Wrapped Up With Love.”

*A Very Merry Christmas*