

**HYMN:** "Let All Together Praise Our God"

**LSB 389, vv. 1-2, 4, 6**

**Jesus' Work is Done, So Receive the Benefits:**

**God has Saved the World through Jesus:** <sup>NAS</sup> **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.<sup>17</sup> For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."

**Comment:** The saved ones glorify God; the lost ones can only blame themselves!

**All who Receive Jesus by Grace through Faith are Spiritually Alive and Heaven Bound:** <sup>NIV</sup> **John 1:9** The true light [God's Son] that gives light to every man was coming into the world.<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.<sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own [the Jews], but his own did not receive him.<sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

**Comment:** Sin brought spiritual death to all; so, for anyone to go to heaven, he or she must be born again, born of God, through Jesus, the Christ of Christmas! And all God's people said: **Amen!**

**HYMN:** "Joy to the World"

**LSB 387, vv. 1, 3**

## Christmas Eve 2010 Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**God works through His Word to keep us in Christ!**

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### World History 101

*Key Readings and Hymns Pointing to Jesus the Christ and Our Need for Him!*

**God's Creation, Man's Fall, God's Promise:**

**God is Greatly Honored for His Work of Creation:** <sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 4:9** Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to God, who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,<sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:<sup>11</sup> "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

**Comment:** Forget evolution; God is the Creator!

**Sin and its Consequences have been Passed-On Generation after Generation:** <sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 5:12** "...just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned..."

**Comment:** The first sin made ALL PEOPLE sinners, thus deserving of death and hell!

**With the First Sin came the First Promise of the Savior:** <sup>NIV</sup> **Genesis 3:15** "...I will put enmity [hostility] between you [the serpent, the devil, Satan] and the woman [Eve], and between your offspring and hers; he [My Son, the One whom I will send] will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

**Comment:** As soon as mankind fell, God promised to destroy our enemy and lift us up through His Son – whose birth we celebrate!

**HYMN:** "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

**LSB 352, vv. 1-2, 5**

### God's Promise Reaffirmed:

**A Nation and the Savior through Abram:** <sup>NIV</sup> **Genesis 12:1** The LORD had said to Abram...<sup>3</sup> "...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." <sup>NIV</sup> **John 4:21** Jesus declared to the woman at the well...<sup>22</sup> "salvation is from the Jews."

**Comment:** God formed the Jews through Abraham and, *through his descendants, sent our Savior into the world!*

**More Specifically through the Tribe of Judah:** <sup>NIV</sup> **Genesis 49:9** "You are a lion's cub, O Judah...<sup>10</sup> The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he [the Savior] comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his." <sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 5:5** Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."<sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders....<sup>7</sup> He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.<sup>8</sup> And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb....<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."<sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.<sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

**Comment:** That is the Lamb whose birth we celebrate; *He is God in the flesh; He is our Savior; we owe Him everything!*

**HYMN:** "Lamb of God"

**LSB 550**

### God's Promise Fulfilled:

**Census, Birth, and Angelic Announcement:** <sup>NIV</sup> **Luke 2:1** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.<sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register.<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.<sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

**Comment:** Even now God is offering His favor, *His gift of forgiveness, through Jesus! His favor rests upon those who have received Him by grace through faith!*

**Devil Destroyed, Atonement Accomplished:** <sup>NIV</sup> Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he [Jesus] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.<sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants [*those who are related to Abraham by faith*].<sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

**Comment:** Jesus lived without sin; then was punished for our sin; *through Him – and ONLY through HIM – we are AT ONE with God!*