

Our Saviour Lutheran Church



The Nativity of Our Lord
Midnight Mass
24 December 2013



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

The Parsonage, 65 Furzeshall 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.

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.

Explanation of Symbols:

- C** Congregation
- P** Presiding minister
- A** Assisting minister
- ✠ 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*

2 *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.

3 *Kyrie & Gloria in excelsis*

4 *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

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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)

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

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

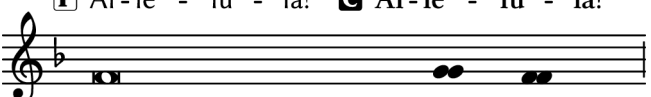
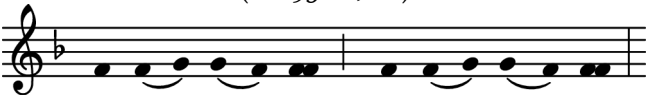
C The LORD has made known his sal- | va-
tion;*

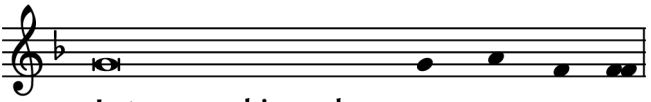
he has revealed his righteousness in
the sight of the | nations.

Epistle Reading—Titus 2:11–14

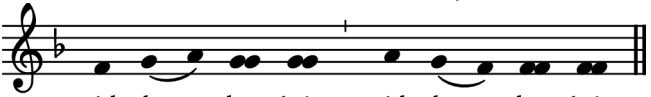
¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who 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)





Let us worship and
bow down; let us
kneel before the LORD, our Mak-er!



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

Gospel Reading—Luke 2:1–20

P The ✠ holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with
whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pon-

dering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

6 *The Nicene Creed*

363 **Hymn: Silent Night**

Sermon

8 *Prayer of the Church*

Each petition ends:

... O Jesus Christ, light of the world,

Shine Your mercy upon us.

621 **Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

8 *The Service of the Sacrament*

11 *Nunc Dimittis and Post-Communion Prayers*

13 *Blessing*

387 *Hymn: Joy to the World*

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; Christians in the Middle East; Fareham Community Church

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

Daily Services at St. Francis, Funtley

No daily services

The Week Ahead

Today	11.15am	Children's Carol Service
	5pm	Pastor at Oxford Mission
Mon	2pm	Christmas Carols at Kiln Lodge & Hunters Lodge
Tue	11pm	Midnight Mass (Scout Hall)
Wed	10am	Christmas Main Service
Thu-Sat	<i>Pastor on Leave</i>	
Sun	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)

Further ahead

31 Dec	8.45am	Daily services resume
1 Jan	<i>No Bible study / Pastor's Surgery</i>	
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:

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:

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

Thu: *Is 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8, 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!

