

Peace Ev. Lutheran Church

(Concordia Lutheran Conference)

Central Avenue at 171st Place

Oak Forest, Illinois 60452

The Rev. David T. Mensing, Pastor



Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

The Christmas Bell

Organ Prelude: "Christians Awake! Salute the Happy Morn!"

Hymn 84: "Christians, Awake! Salute the Happy Morn!"

Opening Liturgy — Order of Service, Hymnal, p. 32ff.

Hymn 87: "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come!"

Psalm 98 — "The Christmas Psalm" (Hymnal, p. 144)

Pastor and Congregation: "Glory be to the Father...."

Epistle Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Hymn 74: "Once He Came in Blessing"

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20 (The Birth of Jesus Christ)

Pastor: "But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us!"

Congregation: "Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!"

Hymn 245: "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

The Sermon: The Alternate Eisenach Epistle Text — 1 John 4:9

Theme: *God's Christmas Gift of Love*

We consider on the basis of our text

I. What this Gift is, and II. Why God gave it.

The Offering of our gifts of love to the dear Christchild...

"... to probe the sincerity of your love.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, tho' He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich!"

—2 Corinthians 8:8-9

Canticle: "The Benedictus" of Zacharias, Luke 1:68-79 (Hymnal, p. 38)

Christmas Prayer

*Pastor and Congregation: "Lord, have mercy upon us!
Christ, have mercy upon us! Lord, have mercy upon us!"*

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: "The Lord be with you."

Congregation: "And with thy spirit."

Christmas Collect Congregation: "Amen"

Pastor: "Bless we the Lord!"

Congregation: "Thanks be to God!"

The Benediction of the Lord Congregation: "Amen, Amen, Amen!"

Hymn 79: "Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn!"

Silent Prayer (Chimes)

Organ Postlude: "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star!"

A Happy and Blessed Christmas to All of You!



*A hearty welcome to all our guests and visitors this morning! May you, by sincere faith in the Christchild of Bethlehem, cling to the glad tidings of great joy that God, for Jesus' sake, has already forgiven the sins of the whole world —**your sins** too— so that by confidence in Jesus as **your** Savior, you have His peace abiding in your heart and the sure anticipation of a place in His heavenly home! **A truly Happy Christmas in His precious Name to each and every one of you!!***