**WORSHIP**

**WHERE HEAVEN MEETS EARTH**

**Session Four, Advent IV, 23 December 2018**

**Opening:**

Invocation – Baptism (see *Gathered*, 137-138)

Venite (Psalm 95:1-7a) – Morning Prayer (LSB, 236-237); see *Gathered*, 393-394

Dr. Luther’s Morning Prayer (LSB, 327; also, Evening Prayer)

**Christmas and the Arts:**

Christianity is a sensual religion (involving the senses), inspiring the various arts:

especially the Nativity and the Passion.

In the sixteenth century Lutherans remained solidly in the “catholic” tradition, where as many of the more extreme reformers rejected the arts, music, so forth.

See *Gathered*, scanning through Section 3, “Worship, Music, and the Arts,” 181-286.

**A Sampler of Christmas Hymns:** (Reverse side of this page.)

See *Gathered*, 63-64; 274-279

**Closing Prayer:** Collect for Advent IV

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come and help us by your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by your grace and mercy; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***LOOKING AHEAD***

*(No sessions will be held on December 30 and January 6 [special mission program])*

*1-13, Epiphany and Baptism*

*1-20, The Epiphany Season*

Some of the Christmas Hymns and Carols in **Lutheran Service Book**

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, sts. 1, 2, 8, 11, 12, 13

359 Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming, sts. 1-2

360 All My Heart Again Rejoices, sts. 1, 2, 4

361/362 O Little Town of Bethlehem, st. 1; O Sing of Christ, sts. 1, 4

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear, st. 4

371 Let Our Gladness Banish Sadness, sts. 1-3

375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising, sts. 1-2

377 On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing, sts. 1-2

381 Let Our Gladness Have No End, sts. 1-2

382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth, sts. 1-3

384 Of the Father’s Love Begotten, sts. 1-2

388 Go Tell it on the Mountain, st. 1

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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| Hymns to be sung on Christmas Eve | Hymns to be sung on Christmas Day |
| 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful  386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice  368 Angels We Have Heard on High  364 Away in a Manger  393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child  359 Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming  361 O Little Town of Bethlehem  376 Once in Royal David’s City  366 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  370 What Child is This  363 Silent Night | 387 Joy to the World  358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come  378 Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light  380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  367 Angels from the Realms of Glory |