

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**The Nativity of our Lord**  
December 25, 2023 (10:00 a.m.)

**GREETING AND SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING HYMN "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" LW41**

**Oh, come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**  
**Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;**  
**Come and behold him born the king of angels:**

*(refrain)*

**Oh, come, let us adore him, oh come let us adore him,**  
**Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Highest, most holy, light of light eternal,**  
**Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;**  
**Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *(refrain)***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**  
**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**  
**Glory to God in the highest: *(refrain)***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;**  
**Jesus, to thee be glory given! Word of the Father,**  
**Now in flesh appearing! *(refrain)***

**INVOCATION**

(ref. Matthew 18:20)

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**PSALM** (Read responsively) Psalm 98:1-3 (NIV)

**P:** Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

**C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made his salvation known

**C: And revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

**P:** He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

**P:** Glory be to the Father; and to the Son; and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" LW 47**

Now sing we, now rejoice with heart and soul and voice.  
Life's Most precious treasure ere poor in manger lies;  
He brings purer pleasure than sunlight from the skies.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

God's Son, come from above, Your grace and saving love  
To my spirit bringing, O pure and holy Child,  
Fill my heart with singing for grace so great and mild.  
Draw me, Lord, to you! Draw me, Lord to you!

We see God's love divine for us in Jesus shine.  
Guilt of sin had taught us but death and misery;  
Then our Ransom bought us God's bright eternity.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Where is that place so fair? Oh, nowhere else but there  
Where the angel voices with God's redeemed unite,  
Awed that he rejoices to share his joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**FIRST LESSON** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NIV)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ... <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE EPISTLE LESSON** 1 John 4: 9-11

<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA VERSE** (stand)

(John 6:68)

**C\*:** *Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter:

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

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "O Sing of Christ" *LSB* 362

O sing of Christ, whose birth made known the kindness of the Lord,  
Eternal Word made flesh and bone so we could be restored.  
Upon our frail humanity God's finger chose to trace  
The fullness of his deity, the icon of his grace

What Adam lost, none could reclaim, and Paradise was barred  
Until the second Adam came to mend what sin had marred.  
For when the time was full and right God sent his only Son;  
He came to us as life and light and our redemption won.

He came to that which was his own, but he was not received;  
Yet still through him God's glory shone, and some his name believed.  
To these he gave the right to be the heirs of heav'n above,  
Born not of human ancestry but born of God in love.

**Lord Jesus Christ, you deigned to dwell among us here on earth  
As God with us, Emmanuel, to bring this holy birth.  
Though rich, you willing became one with our poverty,  
That we might share your wealth and name for all eternity!**

## **SERMON**

### **SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

#### **What does this mean?**

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

**P:** God of all mercy and consolation ... Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

**C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion  
Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done  
And left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we  
may live And serve you in newness of life, to the honor  
and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy. . . the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

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## **PREFACE**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift your hearts and hands in praise

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right . . . evermore praising you and singing:

## **SANCTUS**

**C\*: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed . . .

P: Peace be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

**C\*: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin  
of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take  
away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

## **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Thank the Lord"**

Thank the Lord and sing his praise;  
tell everyone what he has done.  
Let everyone who seeks the Lord  
rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia!

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C: Amen!**

### **CLOSING HYMN "Joy to the World" LW 53**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

## **POSTLUDE**

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