

The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

As We Gather

The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks, and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. Others in history had to wait a much longer time for their Christmas joy. Approximately seven centuries before “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), Isaiah would be inspired by the Spirit to proclaim to the people, “The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (Isaiah 52:10).

Though the people of Isaiah’s day would not experience Christmas as we do, they would hold on by faith to the anticipated promise of salvation through our Savior who was to come. For us, we give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, “The Lord has bared His holy arm” (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.



*How beautiful
upon the
mountains are
the feet of him
who brings good
news, who
publishes peace,
who brings good
news of
happiness, who
publishes
salvation, who
says to Zion,
“Your God
reigns.” Isaiah
52:7*

Opening Hymn: LSB #379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

sts. 1, ref. 2–4

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

“Come, Lord Jesus” Litany

- P** Unto us a child is born.
C **Come, Lord Jesus, come to earth; come as newborn, come by birth.**
P Unto us a Son is given.
C **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest: Make this place your room of rest.**
P And the government shall be upon his shoulders.
C **Come, Lord Jesus, rule each land: hold us in your heart and hand.**

- P** His name shall be called Wonderful.
C **Come, Lord Jesus, hear our praise, Alleluias night and day.**
P His name shall be called Counselor.
C **Come, Lord Jesus, heal the soul: make our minds and spirits whole.**
P His name shall be called Mighty God.
C **Come, Lord Jesus, come as love, love inside, between, above.**
P His name shall be called Everlasting Father.
C **Come, Lord Jesus, be our prize: lift us up by your surprise.**
P His name shall be called Prince of Peace.
C **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest: give us peace and give us rest.**

"Come, Lord Jesus" Litany – by Herb Brokering. Copyright 1988, Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of the author.

Confession and Forgiveness

- P** As part of fallen creation, we cannot join saints and angels to sing eternal praises to our Lord. But the Holy Spirit has shined the light of God's love into our hearts, giving us faith to believe that the darkness of our sin has indeed been dispelled by the coming of our Lord in the flesh.

Let us therefore go to God's throne of grace, freely confessing our sins:

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

- P** Wonderful Counselor,
C **we confess that too often we have listened to the advice of the dark world around us. We have let the gloom of nations and the difficulties of our personal lives blind us to the light of Your love. Forgive us.**
P Mighty God,
C **we confess that we have ascribed too much power to the forces of evil in this world of sin. We have failed to recognize You as glorious Lord overall. Forgive us.**
P Everlasting Father,
C **we confess that in our daily dilemmas we have forgotten the great forgiving love which prompted You to become one of us to die for us. We have not always sought to live in Your light. Forgive us.**
P Prince of Peace,
C **we confess that we have not recognized the peace which You have brought to our discordant lives. We have neither let it pervade our hearts and minds nor our homes and communities. Forgive us.**
P To us a Child has been born; to us God's Son has been given! His eternal reign has broken through to our time and place with the brilliant light of His mercy and forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His

authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, we celebrate this day of our Lord's birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. We welcome You, Jesus, as the Saviour of the world and the Lord of our hearts, for You live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 1:1–6

Verse

John 1:14

Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–14

What We Believe about the God of Christmas

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, Who sent His Son, the Word made Flesh, as my Saviour on Christmas Day.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men, Who lived to suffer and die and rise again to free us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, and by Whose continuous work in my heart I am constantly led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love, and live under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Hymn: LSB #384 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Sermon: Rev. Laverne Hautz

Title: "Download Jesus for Christmas!"

Prayers of God's People

Offering (*offerings previously gathered are brought forward*)

"Joy to the World" Carol Setting for Holy Communion

Proper Preface [*tune: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*]

- P** May God be with you now I pray
C **And with you also now we say**
P Lift your hearts to Him in praise
C **To the Lord our hearts we raise**
P Let us thank the Lord our God
C **To Him we humbly bow and nod**
P Give Him thanks and praise
C **Give Him thanks and praise.**

Sanctus [*tune: Angels from The Realms of Glory*]

- C** **Holy, holy, holy, holy,
God of might and pow'r and love
You are full of glory solely
Both in earth and heav'n above
Loud hosannas, to the one who
In the name of the Lord comes.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Thanks be to You, O Lord, for in these last days You have illuminated this dark world through the appearance of Your Son, who has displayed the glory of Your great love. He is Your Word made flesh, inseparable from You. Through Him You made all things. With Him You were well pleased, for He was obedient to Your will, contending against the dark forces of this fallen world, even to death on the cross. Draw all Your people to the brilliance of Your Christmas light; fill them with Your Holy Spirit so that they may reflect the light of Your love and give You the glory in word and deed, in song and service. To You, with the Spirit and Your Son, be all glory in the Church, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

The Words of Institution

Proclamation of Christ

Lord's Prayer [*tune: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear*]

Our Father, who in heav'n above,
We praise your hallowed name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
In heav'n, on earth the same.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Our food, our health, our friends.
Provide, protect, and nourish us,
Each day till this life ends.

Forgive us all our sins, O Lord,
This is our heartfelt prayer,
For those who sin against us, may we
Your grace now freely share
And lead us no longer into sin,
From evil keep us free.
Yours is the kingdom, glory, pow'r
Now till eternity.

Distribution Hymn; LSB #621 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Distribution Hymn: LSB #389 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

Post-Communion Thanksgiving [*tune: Angels We Have Heard on High*]

1	Thank the Lord and sing His praise,	2	Praise, all you seek the Lord,
	Tell the world what He has done		And who proudly bear His name,
	To the Lord your voices raise,		God has truly kept His Word,
	Thankful for His newborn Son		Christ the Saviour truly came.
	Gloria in Excelsis Deo,		Gloria in Excelsis Deo,
	Gloria in Excelsis Deo.		Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

Post-Communion Prayer

P We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have again shone the light of Your grace into our hearts by giving us the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins through the true body and blood of Your Son for us. Grant that we may depart this place in peace and joy, for our eyes have seen Your salvation - light for the nations and joy for Your people Israel; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction [*tune: Joy to the World*]

The good Lord bless and keep you
Lift up His shining face

With joy look upon you,
And peace overshadow you
And fill you with His grace,
And fill you with His grace,
And fill you, fill you with His grace!

[**NOTE: the Benediction moves right into the singing of Hymn # 387 – “Joy to the World”]

Closing Hymn: LSB #387 “Joy to the World”



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