



**Christmas Day 12-25-2025**

**As We Gather**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**PREPARATION**

## **From Heaven Above to Earth I Come LBS 358**

"From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

"This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.

"He will on you the gifts bestow  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us His glory share.

"These are the signs that you shall mark:  
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid  
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

How glad we'll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us His own dear Son.

Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

**Opening Sentences (sung)** *Psalm 26:8; 1 Kings 8:27; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14*  
LSB 383:2

**A** The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,

**C** and cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

**P** Proclaim the Savior's birth:

**C** "To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

### Confession and Absolution

*Isaiah 52:7; John 1:12–13, adapt.*

**A** The infant Christ—the radiance of the glory of God—came to make purification for the sins of the world, to swallow up death forever, and to be the light of life for those who walked in darkness. In praise of God's mighty deliverance, we humble ourselves before Him in repentant prayer.

**C** Lord God, heavenly Father, we bow before You and confess that we indeed have walked in darkness; in the blindness of sin, we have neglected You, lost by our own fault. But we have seen the great light in the gift of Your only Son. Enlighten our hearts, our minds, and our lives by the forgiveness of our sins and the great promises of Your heavenly grace and mercy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**P** God has spoken His promises by the prophets, and now in these last days has spoken to us by His Son. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, announce the grace of God to all of you and speak His own absolution: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## WORD

### Introit

*Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

**P** For 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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C** Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

**A** The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

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

**P** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**A** For 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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

### **Joy to the World LSB 387**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her 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.

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

### **Salutation**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**A** Let us pray.

Merciful God, as we are gladdened to celebrate the annual festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, our Savior, help us to remember the purpose of His earthly ministry that we may take confidence in our deliverance from sin, Satan, and death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 52:7–10*

<sup>7</sup>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."

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?  
Or again, “I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup>And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Verse

*John 1:14*

**P** Alleluia.

**C** **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.**

**P** Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:1–18*

**A** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And 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. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



<sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

**A** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Affirmation of Faith

**C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God begotten of the Father from all 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 sin, death and the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy precious blood and 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, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. Amen.

### O Come, All Ye Faithful LSB 379

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: Refrain

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O 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 giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon "Behold His Glory" John 1:14

### Prayer of the Church

- A** Dear heavenly Father, in the incarnation of Jesus You revealed good news and great joy for all the earth to hear. Embolden us to spread the good news and great joy of Your Son to the ends of the earth. For the people who walked in darkness
- C** **have seen a great light.**

**A** Lord, shine Your light upon all of the leaders of the world, that we live in peace and quietness without war or violence. For the people who walked in darkness

**C** **have seen a great light.**

**A** Lord, You have shined the light of Christ on the world. Help us reflect Your light to those who are experiencing the darkness of the world. Bring community to the lonely, stability to those in transition, and safety to all those who have suffered abuse. For the people who walked in darkness

**C** **have seen a great light.**

**A** Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. For the people who walked in darkness

**C** **have seen a great light.**

## **Offering play video**

## **SACRAMENT**

### **Prepare our Hearts for Communion**

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

## Communion Instructions

*(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- A** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and in these last days have spoken grace and truth to us through Your Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us.

Through Your Son, You created the world and everything in it and uphold the universe by the power of His Word. Let Your Son dwell within us that faithfully eating and drinking His body and blood we may receive peace and salvation.

Hear us as we confidently pray in His name the prayer He taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **Pax Domini**

- A** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## **Agnus Dei**

Agnus Dei (tune Joy to the World)

**Joy to the world, the Lamb of God,**

**Is born for us today!**

**He comes to spread His joy abroad,**

**The light, the peace, the way,**

**The light, the peace, the way,**

**The light, the light, the peace, the way.**

Text: Andrew R. Jones

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## **Angels We Have Heard on High LSB 368**

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain  
Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French  
Text: Public domain

## **Away in a Manger LSB 364**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.

Text: Public domain

## **Nunc Dimittis**

Post-Communion Canticle (tune Away in a Manger)

**Lord, now in your mercy, your servants release.**

**As your word has promised, Oh, Grant us your peace.**

**Our eyes your salvation and mercy behold,  
prepared for the nations as prophets foretold.**

**A light to the Gentiles, by whom they now see,  
the glory of Israel, the Promised One be,  
who lives now and ever, the heaven's bright Son,  
with Father and Spirit, eternally one.**

Text: music: James R. Murray, 1887.; words: Unknown origin, revised by Daniel Benedict and Dean McIntyre

## **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

**A** O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Closing Sentences

*Matthew 1:22–23; John 1:14; Isaiah 52:10*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

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

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LSB 380

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King;

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

Join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim,

“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,

Christ, the everlasting Lord,

Late in time behold Him come,

Offspring of a virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,

Hail the incarnate Deity!

Pleased as Man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain



Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. Refrain  
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Text: Public domain

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