

# **UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN**

*Christmas Day at Gethsemane*

*Saturday, December 25, 2021*

## **AS WE GATHER**

Months of anticipation for the young children among us reach their long-awaited fulfillment with the exciting arrival of Christmas Day! Take that anticipation, multiply it again and again, and you can begin to fathom how it felt for God's people, who long awaited the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah and the other prophets had foretold that this Child, this Son, would come to bring salvation unto us. In the birth of Jesus Christ, this anticipation that stretched for hundreds—even thousands—of years reaches its fulfillment as God's Son is born into our world. Together may we marvel at the mystery that is Christmas, rejoicing with the angels that this Good News is delivered unto us. May we together receive this gift anew as Jesus Himself is present with us as we gather to worship Him!

### **+ O COME LET US ADORE HIM +**

*LSB 379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL*

sts. 1, ref, 2–3

1 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**

**ref O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: **Refrain**

**ref O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

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### *INVOCATION*

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

**C** **Amen.**

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION* Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.; Luke 18:13

**P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered this Christmas morning to hear God's Word, to marvel at the mystery of the Word becoming flesh, and to receive Him as He comes to us in His body and blood, let us first consider our unworthiness before God and confess before Him and one another that we have sinned in thought,

word, and deed. We cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition; only God's Son, Jesus Christ, has set us free from our fears and failures, our sin and death, and He enables us to live forever as God's children. Let us then take refuge in the infinite mercy of our God and, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, say: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, born into this world on Christmas, to live, suffer, die, and rise again for you. For Jesus' sake, your heavenly Father forgives you all your sins. As your pastor, it is my privilege to announce this message of grace unto you and, as Christ has commanded, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*LSB 379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL*

sts. ref, 4

4 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**

**ref O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

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*SALUTATION*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of our sin

**C** that we may rejoice in the salvation You have delivered unto us;

**P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**+ GOD'S CHRISTMAS WORD +**

*OLD TESTAMENT READING*

Isaiah 62:10–12 NIV

<sup>10</sup> Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people.

Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: “Say to Daughter Zion,

‘See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.’”

<sup>12</sup> They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

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

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

*EPISTLE*

Titus 3:4–7 NIV

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,  
<sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but  
because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth  
and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us  
generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been  
justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of  
eternal life.

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

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

*LSB 380 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING*

1 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**

**ref Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

2 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**

**ref Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

3 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**

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*HOLY GOSPEL*

Luke 2:1–20 NIV

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

<sup>2:1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned,

glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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

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

*LSB 376 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY* sts. 1–2, 4

1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

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*SERMON: "When Love Appeared"*

*APOSTLES' CREED*

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

**+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +**

*INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION*

*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.**

*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 ✝ 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 ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**+ COMMUNION HYMN +**

*LSB 370 WHAT CHILD IS THIS*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

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*BENEDICTION*

Isaiah 9:6, adapt.; Numbers 6:24–26

**P** Unto us

**C** **a child is born!**

**P** Unto us

**C** **a son is given!**

**P** And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

**C** And His name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**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.**

*LSB 392 GOD LOVES ME DEARLY*

1 God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me. **Refrain**

**ref** **Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

3 He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus And set me free. **Refrain**

5 Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise You All my life long. **Refrain**

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#### *ACKNOWLEDGMENTS*

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