

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

Christmas Day at Gethsemane

Sunday, December 25, 2022

AS WE GATHER

If you've watched young children anticipate Christmas, imagine how it felt for God's people, who long awaited the coming of the Messiah. 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!

+ 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 52:7-10 NIV

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy.

When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–6 NIV

^{1:1} In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact

representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,
“You are my Son; today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

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

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

John 1:1–18 NIV

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

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

^{1:1} In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him

was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

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: "Worship Christ the newborn King!"

APOSTLES' CREED

**☐ 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

☩ 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 HYMNS +

HWC 151 GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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!

Text: Public domain

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.

HWC 152 I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

- 1 I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.
- 2 I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.
- 3 And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."
- 4 Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

5 Then ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day -
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Text: HENRY W. LONGFELLOW. MUSIC: Jean Baptiste Calkin

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