

AS WE GATHER

A new year begins! Outside of annually changing one number on our calendar, much of life remains the same, including the daily battles we face against Satan, sin, and our own flesh. But there is newness for we live in this world through the blameless One born for us. Christ was under and has fulfilled God's Law perfectly for us, even as an infant child brought to the temple for circumcision under Mosaic Law. Rejoice in the newness that has come! More than a new year, we are given a new life, for Christ has fulfilled all and set us free! As we are marked in Baptism and bear Christ's name, we become inheritors of His promise. It is a newness to celebrate each day of every year!

+ WORSHIP THE LORD JESUS - THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER! +

LSB 803 JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE sts. 1–2

1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun
above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy
rays,

Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt.

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Galatians 3:24–26; 4:4–5

P Christ, our Savior is born!

C **O come, let us adore Him!**

P When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

C **O come, let us adore Him!**

P The law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

C **O come, let us adore Him!**

CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION John 8:34; Galatians 3:23; 5:1

P As we begin a new year in God's grace, we acknowledge and repent of our sinfulness and failure to keep His Law.

"Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

C **Lord, we confess to You our sins, those of which we know, and those of which we are unaware. We have not always viewed Your Law as a gift, but instead at times as a burden to obey. Though we desire to be free, we find ourselves enslaved and unable to help ourselves. Forgive us.**

P "Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed."

C For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your Law and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

P “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 803 st. 3

△ 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav’n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt.

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ GOD'S WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 6:22–27 NIV

²² The LORD said to Moses, ²³ “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

²⁴ ““The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.””

²⁷ “So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Galatians 3:23–29 NIV

²³ Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. ²⁴ So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

LSB 389 LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD sts. 1–5

1 Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

- 2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.
- 3 Within an earthborn form He hides His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.
- 4 He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.
- 5 He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love! No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; (sts. 1, 3–5): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text (sts. 1, 3–5): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005119. Text (st. 2): Public domain

Message: Jesus, Re-Newer Of All Things

CREED

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,**

**very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures**

**and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,**

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,**

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN:

SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE LSB 394 sts. 1–2, 5

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
 Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
 And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine, Changing water into wine;
 Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word—
 Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany
 And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.

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OUR PRAYERS

+ 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.”

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

LSB 374 GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undeiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undeiled But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

Text: Public domain

HWC 136 THE FIRST NOEL

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. **REFRAIN**

Ref Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel!

- 2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far

And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night. **REFRAIN**

Ref Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel!

3 And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went. **REFRAIN**

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. **REFRAIN**

5 Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **REFRAIN**

Text: Public domain

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.**

LSB 384 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN sts. 1, 4–5

1 Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,

And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,

Ev'ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,

And eternal victory Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1, 4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

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