
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christmas Worship Service
+ Service of Holy Communion +
December 25, 2020
9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER - *Glory is the theme of both John's account and Luke's familiar details of the Savior's birth. They are not mutually exclusive but speak of the same event. The surprise is that glory is not where we would have expected it or what we would have expected it to be. Hidden in the manger is the Word made flesh, the same creating Word that spoke all things into being. Hidden in the flesh of a baby is the glory of the God who becomes His people's Savior. Hidden in the faith that trusts this Word are eyes to see and ears to hear the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the Word made flesh, God has displayed His glory, and that glory appeared in order to give us the right to become the children of God.*

PRESERVICE MUSIC *"Infant Holy"* **by Jeffrey Blersch**
PRESERVICE MUSIC: HANDBELL SELECTION *"O Come All Ye Faithful"*

WELCOME

[♩Means please stand; ♪Means please be seated]

♩ **OPENING HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

John 1:1-5, 9-14

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen.**
- P** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,*
- C** **and the Word was God.**
- P** *He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him,*
- C** **and without Him was not any thing made that was made.**
- P** *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness,*
- C** **and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** *The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,*
- C** **yet the world did not know Him.**
- P** *He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name,*
- C** **He gave the right to become children of God,**
- P** *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man,*
- C** **but of God.**
- P** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,*
- C** **full of grace and truth.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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.*
- C** **We have resisted His governing; we have followed our own desires.**
- P** *His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
- C** **We have followed other voices of this world and not always relied on Him. We not only sin—we are sinful human beings. Help us, Lord Jesus. Forgive our sins and be the counselor we trust, the God to whom we go, the eternal source of all we need. Give us the peace we so desperately need.**
- P** *The Child born to us, the Son given to us, is Jesus, the Son of David, reigning forever; Jesus, the Son of Mary, whose humble birth reveals that God turns the way of the world upside down to exchange His life for ours. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen.**

INTROIT

Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

P and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

C His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

P The LORD has made known his salvation;

C he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P 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;

C break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

All: 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.

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

P and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

HYMN OF PRAISE

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383

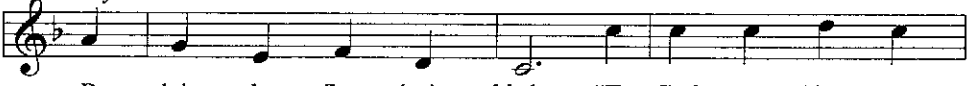


1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray.*

All: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

P OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How 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."

⁸The 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.

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

¹⁰The 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.

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–6

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
²but 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. ³He 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,
⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For 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"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God.**

♩ ALLELUIA VERSE

John 1:14

All: 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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁴And 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.

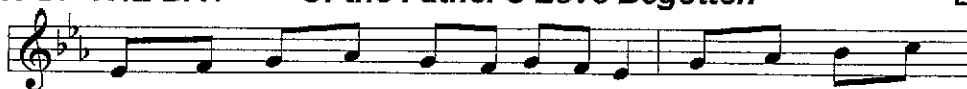
P *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

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

♩ HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

"ALONE FOR CHRISTMAS"

John 1:10-14

NICENE CREED

C 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 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 worshipped 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** *Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the faith to greet the news of the Word made flesh with joy and peace, for the obedience of faith to walk in the light of His ways, for the strength to be steadfast in this faith, and for speedy feet to proclaim this message to the world, let us pray to the Lord.*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For voices to proclaim faithfully the Word of God, for listening ears that we grow in knowledge and faith by the preaching of the Word, for those who deliver to us the Means of Grace in which we behold God's glory and receive it with joy and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For the Church, here and throughout the world, for every place where the Word has planted hope and displayed God's saving glory to the nations, and for the homes in which we teach this Word to our children and live it out in holy lives, let us pray to the Lord.*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** *For peace in the world, for an end to violence, for the restoration of hope and lives still suffering from the effects of the pandemic, for justice, for the will to protect life from its beginning to its natural end, and for those in need, let us pray of the Lord.*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For grace to believe the Word we hear, for repentant hearts to receive worthily the grace of Christ's body and blood in this Holy Communion, for our strong unity in doctrine, and for our harmony in our life together as the Body of Christ, the Church, let us pray to the Lord.*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For those who suffer any need of body or soul, for the sick, for the aged, for the grieving, and for those in their last days, that the Lord be their healing, strength, comfort, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For the saints who endured in the holy confession of Your name, for the martyrs whose sacrifice inspires us still, and for all the saints who rest from their labors, that we join them on that promised day when Christ shall join the faithful as one in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His kingdom without end, let us pray to the Lord.*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For all things needful to this body and life and for all things profitable to our salvation, let us pray in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh, in whom we behold the glory of the eternal Trinity, now and to the end of the ages.*
- C** **Amen.**

PREFACE

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** *Lift up your hearts.*
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** *It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:*
- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** *Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. **C** Amen.*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P *O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

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.**

PAX DOMINI

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

During Communion: Piano/Organ Duet

Joy to the World

During Communion: Choral Selection

Birthday of a King

During Communion: Solo Selection

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P *Let us pray. O Lord, Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, grant that Your light shine forth in us and through us, that we may carry the holy joy of this day into all eternity; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.*

C **Amen.**

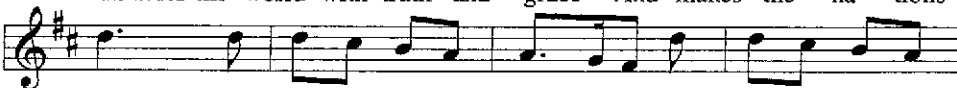
CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

