

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2023

9:00AM



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

SON OF MAN AND SON OF GOD

AS WE GATHER

Who is the Son of God? That first Christmas, the baby lying in the manger appeared to be the son of Mary and Joseph. Yet, this infant boy is so much more than meets the eye. He is the Son of God! How do we know? Just listen to God's Word in the proclamation of the angels: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Or hear the words of John 1: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). This Christmas, through faith, you also are more than what meets the eye. You are a child of God! How do you know? God's Word connected to water declares it because you are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Celebrate this Christmas that "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" (Galatians 4:4-5).

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN "Joy to the World" LSB 387

Please stand

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 146:3-5

P Put not your trust in princes,

C in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

P When his breath departs

C he returns to the earth;

P on that very day

C his plans perish.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C whose hope is in the LORD his God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P “We also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world” (Galatians 4:3). Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P “But 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” (Galatians 4:4–5). Because of the Savior who is the Word made flesh and who dwelt among us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367, vv. 1,2,4

INTROIT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Psalms 98:1–4; 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.
 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.
 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.
 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
 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.
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.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Father in heaven, You sent forth Your Son to be born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us who were under the law. Grant that through faith we might rejoice in our baptismal adoption as Your children and our connection to Christ; through the same 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

R The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-second chapter.

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.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS DAY PSALM (Read responsively)**Psalm 2**

P I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.”

C **Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?**

P The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed, saying,

C **“Let us burst Their bonds apart and cast away Their cords from us.”**

P He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

C **Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying,**

P “As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”

C **I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.**

P Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.

C **You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”**

P Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

C **Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.**

P Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

C **I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.”**

EPISTLE**Hebrews 1:1-12**

R The Epistle is from Hebrews, the first chapter.

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”?
(continued...)

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

⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil

of gladness beyond your companions."

¹⁰And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹²like 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."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

CHRISTMAS DAY 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 1:1–18

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

C 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 any thing 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. *(continued...)*

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. ¹⁵(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.' ") ¹⁶And from His fullness we have all received,

grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

R This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON HYMN "A Great and Mighty Wonder" LSB 383

CHRISTMAS SERMON "THINGS WE SEE AND HEAR AT CHRISTMAS"
(Text: Luke 2:1-20) *The Rev. Dr. Armand J. Boehme*

TITHES AND OFFERING

Please stand

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

P We pray as our Lord has taught us:

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.

Please be seated

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for when the fullness of time had come, You sent Your Son to be born of a woman, born under the law, so that we might receive adoption as Your children. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS “Angels, We Have Heard on High” LSB 368

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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Welcome to the Lord’s table.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386

“God Loves Me Dearly”

LSB 392

COMMUNION DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

C **Amen**

Please stand

BENEDICTION

P Go out now, singing a song to the God of our salvation.

Sing of His mighty deeds and glory.

Join the heavenly chorus and let us declare together:

C **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace.**

Jesus Christ is born today!

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.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Please remain standing for the final hymn

HYMN **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”** *LSB 380*

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