

# Christmas Day

December 25, 2024

10:00 a.m.

*Please note: This worship service is live streamed and recorded.*

## **AS WE GATHER**

The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. We give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, “The Lord has bared His holy arm” (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

## **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

## **WELCOME AND EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

*It is important to recognize that some people are especially susceptible to viruses that can be spread by contact and that some immune systems are very sensitive. Please understand that some may choose not to shake hands during the Exchange of Peace, but might simply greet you with a verbal greeting, a wave, or a smile.*

## OPENING HYMN

376 Once in Royal David's City

- 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.
  
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
    With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
    Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

*Text: Public domain*

## INVOCATION

*(John 1:1, 4-5; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10)*

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word.

People: **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

Pastor: In Him was life,

People: **and the life was the light of men.**

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

People: **and the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

Pastor: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

People: **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: On this most holy feast of Christmas, the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us approach His manger-throne in humility, confessing our need for this Savior that we may receive Him and the forgiveness He came to deliver for the life of the world.

People: **Most merciful God, before the glory of the gift of Your only-begotten Son, we bow in confession of our unworthiness to receive such a gift. But it is the gift we need; for we are by nature sinful and unclean and justly deserve nothing but Your punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, 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.**

*(continued on next page)*

Pastor: In this divine, sacred infant is the hope of the world, for He was born to die for you. For the sake of His death almighty God forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word-made-flesh, crucified and risen again, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## CAROL OF PRAISE

**373** See Amid the Winter's Snow

**1** See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years. (Refrain)

**Refrain** Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**3** Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this! (Refrain)

*Public domain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Gracious God, we celebrate this day of our Lord's birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. We welcome You, Jesus, as the Savior of the world and the Lord of our hearts, who now lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.**

## ✘ WORD ✘

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

*(The Lord's coming salvation)*

<sup>7</sup> How 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!" <sup>8</sup> Listen! 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. <sup>9</sup> Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

“The Holly and the Ivy”

setting by Ryan Meyer

*The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.*

*The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flow'r,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior.*

*Refrain:*

*Oh, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. (refrain)*

*The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn. (refrain)*

*The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. (refrain)*

*The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.*

*(God has spoken to us by His Son)*

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The 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. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. <sup>5</sup> 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?" <sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

**374** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

- 1 **Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undeified, 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 Undeified 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!**

*Public domain*

*Please stand*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

John 1:1-14

*(The Word became flesh and dwelt among us)*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup> There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

<sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **HYMN**

383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

**1 A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant  
With virgin honor pure! (Refrain)**



- ref **Proclaim the Savior's birth:  
"To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth!"**
- 2 **The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky. (Refrain)**
- 3 **While thus they sing your Monarch,  
Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,  
And oceans, clap your hands. (Refrain)**
- 4 **Since all He comes to ransom,  
By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Bethl'em,  
The Savior and the Lord. (Refrain)**
- 5 **All idols then shall perish  
And Satan's lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise His scepter,  
Decreeing endless peace. (Refrain)**

*Text: Public domain*

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

*Please Stand*

## **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.**

## **THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**Pastor:** We gather on this holy day, O Lord, thankful for the gift of salvation that You have given to us. We celebrate the birth of the Christ child as the One who brings an end to hostilities between God and man and heals the division that sin creates.

**People:** **Grant us to rejoice daily in the forgiveness You declare.**

**Pastor:** Father, may we never lose sight of the gift You gave on that first Christmas day. In the midst of our haste and busyness,

**People:** **enable our strife to be stilled with the peace that only Jesus gives.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You are the incarnate gift of God to each and every one of us. You have blessed us to be the Church in the midst of our communities and culture.

**People: Through Your Word and Sacraments heal the divisions that exist among us that we may be one people, confessing one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.**

Pastor: Father, You sent Your Son into this world to accomplish salvation of our souls and to restore our broken relationship with You. Through the blood of Christ on the cross, health and healing, life and salvation, consolation and peace are ours.

**People: May we be firmly grounded in Your generous gifts that preserve life temporally and eternally.**

Pastor: We pray in the name of our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## OFFERING

### ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

*In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament*

## PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: 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 singing:

**SANCTUS** (tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of Your name!  
Hail, hosanna, God Most High! Blest is He who now draws nigh  
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:  
Hail, hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to You!**

## **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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**Pastor:** 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 is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

## **PEACE OF THE LORD**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## **AGNUS DEI (tune: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)**

**O Lamb of God, You take away The whole world's sin, now hear us pray.  
Have mercy on Your people, Lord, and grant Your peace, Incarnate Word!  
O Lamb of God, Emmanuel, Your grace and mercy with us dwell.**

*If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.*

*When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.*

*Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

388    **Go Tell It on the Mountain**

- ref    Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!**
- 1    While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. Refrain**
- 2    The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain**
- 3    Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessèd Christmas morn. Refrain**

*Text: Public domain*

# The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star Shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star Three .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, O'er . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; And to the . . .  
 Wise . Men came . . . from coun - try far; To seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; And there it . . .

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, And . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, And to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay Right . . . o - ver the

*Refrain*  
 night . that was . . . so deep.  
 tin - ued both day . . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -  
 star . . . wher - ev - er it went.  
 place . where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5 Then entered in those Wise Men three, And offered there in his presence  
 Full rev'rently upon their knee, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

*Refrain*

*Please stand*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that we have seen Your salvation in our Savior born this day, and in His body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. We implore You that of Your infinite love, mercy, and forgiveness, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**387** Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**  
**Let earth receive her King;**  
**Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room**  
**And heav'n and nature sing,**  
**And heav'n and nature sing,**  
**And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**



- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

*Text: Public domain*

## POSTLUDE

*Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserve worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.*

*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Part 1. Copyright © 2017 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

## Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Ellory Glenn
Liturgist:	Theodore Laesch
Choir:	Choral Singers
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer
Instrumentalists:	Nate Laesch, trumpet Ted Laesch, trumpet Zeke Laesch, horn Jake Laesch, euphonium

