

# Christmas Day

December 25, 2020

10:00 a.m.

## AS WE GATHER

Today is a day of celebration, as we rejoice in the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. With joy we sing His praises; with devotion we worship; with humility we gather round the manger to pray the blessings of the Christ Child. "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men on whom His favor rests.'"

## PRELUDE

"Sing Joy to the World"

arranged by Ryan Meyer

## WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

**376** Once in Royal David's City (sung by soloists) (v.3 – organ alone)

- 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.*

*(continued on next page)*

3        *For He is our childhood's pattern,  
          Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
          Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.*

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!*

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## INVOCATION

Pastor:        In the name of the Father,

**People:        who so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son.**

Pastor:        In the name of the Son,

**People:        who came to our world to bring us life!**

Pastor:        In the name of the Holy Spirit,

**People:        whose presence brings us life and light.**

Pastor:        In the name of our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

**People:        to our God be glory and praise, both now and forevermore. Amen.**

## 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.

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise;

**People: He is to be feared above all gods.**

Pastor: He will judge the world in righteousness,

**People: and the people in His truth.** (*Psalm 96:4, 13*)

**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.**

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 (vv.1, 3) (sung by soloists)

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)*

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:**        The Lord be with you.

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

**Pastor:**        Let us pray.

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.

**People:**        **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 52:7-10

*(The Lord comforts His people)*

<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.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 98

Pastor: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

People: **his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

Pastor: The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

People: **He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;**

Pastor: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: **Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;**

Pastor: make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,

People: **with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn-- shout for joy before the LORD, the King.**

Pastor: Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

People: **Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;**

Pastor: let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

People: **He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

## HYMN

### 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (sung by soloist)

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

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## EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1-6

*(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.**

*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.**

## **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.**

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**



*Please stand*

## **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.**

## **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.**

## ✠ 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*

### 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.**

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## ANTHEM

"Walk in the Light"

arr. by André Thomas

*Please stand*

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

**People: for His steadfast love endures forever!** *(1 Chronicles 16:34)*

Pastor: Gracious God and Father,

**People: we thank You for this gift of Your Son and for the message of the angels that was announced to the shepherds at His birth.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus,

**People: we thank You for caring so much for us that You came to be one of us.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit,

**People: we thank You for carrying the song of the angels to our ears, that we might be lifted up in hope and joy. Show us the way to take this message to our community and the entire world through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

### *Refrain*

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 blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

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## POSTLUDE

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## Serving at Chapel

Preacher & Liturgist:

Theodore Laesch

Soloists:

Mark Petersen

Nate Laesch

Instrumentalists:

Nate Laesch, trumpet

Zeke Laesch, horn

Jake Laesch, euphonium

Organist & Accompanist:

Ryan Meyer

