

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Grace has not a body to appear visibly. Yes, but Christ appeared; and when he appeared it was as if grace and love had been incarnate, and took a body. So that grace and mercy most of all shines in the incarnation of Christ. (Richard Sibbes)

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship:

Psalm 24:7-10

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!

**People: And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Leader: Who is this King of glory?

**People: The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle!**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!

**People: And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Leader: Who is this King of glory?

**People: The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory!**

All: Let's Worship the King of Glory!

Greeting:

Based on Ruth 2.4

Leader: The LORD be with you!

People: And also with you!

Prayer of Invocation

**Hymn of Praise: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*
*Trinity Hymnal #198***

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel:

Galatians 3:23-24

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

Confession of Sin

Comfort of the Gospel:

Galatians 3:25-29

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. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

God Consecrates Us by Praise, Pledge, and Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving:

Joy Has Dawned

Joy has dawned upon the world / Promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled / Hope for every nation
Not with fanfares from above / Not with scenes of glory
But a humble gift of love / Jesus born of Mary

Sounds of wonder fill the sky / With the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life / Shelters in a stable
Hands that set each star in place / Shaped the earth in darkness
Cling now to a mother's breast / Vulnerable and helpless

Shepherds bow before the Lamb / Gazing at the glory
Gifts of men from distant lands / Prophecy the story
Gold a King is born today / Incense God is with us
Myrrh His death will make a way / And by His blood He'll win us

Son of Adam Son of heaven / Given as a ransom
Reconciling God and man / Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Saviour what a Friend / What a glorious mystery
Once a babe in Bethlehem / Now the Lord of history

Administration of Covenant Baptism:

Lucas James Rademaker

Hymn of Meditation:

***What Child is This?*
*Trinity Hymnal #213***

Advent Reading of Love:

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Hymn of Meditation:

***Once in Royal David's City*
*Trinity Hymnal#225***

Prayer of Intercession:

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 12.1-3

Sermon:

Jesus Came as the Better Abraham

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Profession of Faith:

Zechariah's Prophecy, Luke 1:68-75

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

Hymn of Response:

***As with Gladness Men of Old*
*Trinity Hymnal #226***

Benediction:

Numbers 6.24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.