

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Here are two mysteries for the price of one—the plurality of persons within the unity of God, and the union of Godhead and manhood in the person of Jesus. It is here, in the thing that happened at the first Christmas, that the profoundest and most unfathomable depths of the Christian revelation lie. “The Word became flesh” (John 1:14) (Packer)

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship: *based on Psalm 126*

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us!

People: And we are filled with joy!

Leader: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

People: Our tears into songs of joy!

Leader: The Son of God was made flesh for us.

People: Glorify his name!

Leader: O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

People: And remain in us forever.

Greeting: *2 John 3*

Leader: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us,

From God the Father and from Jesus Christ

The Father’s Son, in truth and love.

People: Amen!

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise: *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come Trinity Hymnal #195*

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel: *Philippians 2.5-11*

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Confession of Sin

Comfort of the Gospel: *Philippians 4.19*

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

God Consecrates Us by Praise and Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Trinity Hymnal #203*

Advent Reading of Joy: *Isaiah 7.14; 11.1-10*

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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 Offering

**Children dismissed to Little Church*

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading: *John 1.1-18*

Sermon: *God Must Come Down to Become Man*

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Prayer of Application: *Advent Prayer of Thomas Cranmer*

Almighty God, give us grace, that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, (in which your son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;) that in the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

Profession of Faith: *The Chalcedonian Definition*

Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.

Hymn of Response: *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen Trinity Hymnal #211*

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.