

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2020 – 9 AM

AS WE GATHER Glory is the theme of both John’s account and Luke’s familiar details of the Savior’s birth. They are not mutually exclusive but speak of the same event. The surprise is that glory is not where we would have expected it or what we would have expected it to be. Hidden in the manger is the Word made flesh, the same creating Word that spoke all things into being. Hidden in the flesh of a baby is the glory of the God who becomes His people’s Savior. Hidden in the faith that trusts this Word are eyes to see and ears to hear the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the Word made flesh, God has displayed His glory, and that glory appeared in order to give us the right to become the children of God.

† IN DOMINE JESU †

(In the Name of Jesus)

PRELUDE

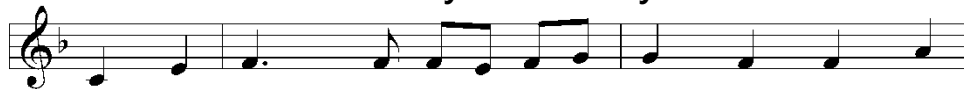
LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH & CHRIST CANDLE

WELCOME “This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!” *Ps. 118:24*

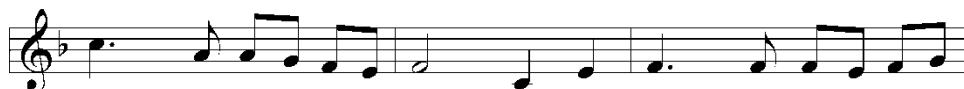
GATHERING HYMN

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB 376 vs. 1-5



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid’s cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood’s pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav’n a - bove; And He



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren 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!

Public domain

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: A Blessed Christmas Morning! Jesus is Born!

C: Jesus is born! Merry Christmas!

OPENING SENTENCES

P: The people who walked in darkness

C: have seen a great light!

P: For behold, I bring you good news of great joy!

C: Unto us is born this day a Savior!

P: He is Christ, the Lord!

C: He is Christ, the Lord!

HYMN

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new
Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.
Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing;
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Public domain

DECLARATION OF PRAISE

P: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!

C: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Refrain
 Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Today we celebrate Christmas, the incarnation of Jesus, the Word of God becoming flesh. Jesus came to bring peace and joy through all the earth, yet centuries later, our world is still filled with war and violence, hopelessness and despair. Too often, we have spread the evils of the world, rather than the joy and peace of Jesus. But our heavenly Father invites us to come before Him to ask for His forgiveness.

(We pause to reflect silently upon our sin and need for Christ our Savior).

P: We confess together,

C: Heavenly Father, we admit to you that we have failed to live by your Word of grace and peace of Jesus. We have taken Your salvation for granted. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we know the joy of the Lord.

P: Our heavenly Father sent Jesus to embrace all people. Jesus comes to heal the sick, to preach good news to the poor, and to forgive sinners like you and me. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Christ has come! We are forgiven in Jesus Name.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379 vs. 1, 4

O come, all ye faithful,
 Joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him
 Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together. **Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

(The Lord comforts His people.)

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

P: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

P: for He has done marvelous things!

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1-12

(Now He has spoken through His Son.)

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"? 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."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB 380

P: Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel in honor of our Lord Jesus.

The Holy Gospel according to St John the first Chapter.

C: Glory to You o Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

(The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.)

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. 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

LSB 389 vs 1-4

SERMON

"The Real Christmas Miracle - the Word of God Made Flesh" *John 1:1-18*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

LSB 389 vs 5-7

THE 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *after petitions, Pastor prays "Lord in your mercy" please pray, "Hear our prayer"*

(after all the petitions have been prayed, we commend all the prayers with these words)

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

† CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

THE LORD'S PRAYER In preparation for the Lord's supper we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **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.**

THE PREPARATION *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord's Words of Institution)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His 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 after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

ONE BODY IN CHRIST *(As brothers and sisters in Christ, as one body we communion with the invitation of the following words)*

P: Take and eat this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given into death for all your sin.

P: Take and drink this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast, in the one true faith, to life everlasting. Go in peace, joy, love and forgiveness. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together, **Almighty God, Creator of all things, we give You thanks that on this day You gave Your Word in flesh to be our Savior and Redeemer. Grant us eyes to see His glory and ears to hear His voice that we may behold that glory and not depart from its light even to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

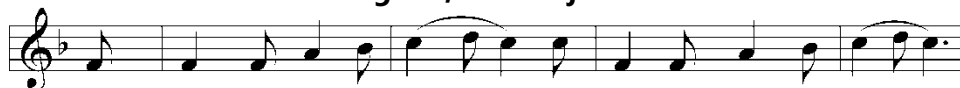
The Lord look upon you with His favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Public domain

DISMISSAL

P: Jesus is born! Merry Christmas! **C: Merry Christmas! Jesus is born!**

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †

(To God be the Glory)

THE POSTLUDE

Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission, Series A, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*A Blessed and Merry Christmas
and Blessed New Year!*

SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE THIS CHRISTMAS DAY (9:00 AM)

Elder:	Rich Mobroten
Lectors:	Vivian Jobst
Ushers:	Evelyn & Norma Jabs
Acolyte:	Allie Wagner
AV:	Dinah Gilberts
Zoom/Sound:	Michael Hentges
Music Director:	Mui Cheng



14085 Pike Lake Trail NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Phone: (952) 445-1779

Music & Choir Director: Mui Cheng; Praise Music Director: Becca Tutewohl

Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak

Pastor James (Jim) Jobst: (612) 615-2939