

CHRISTMAS DAY THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2017

10:00



AS WE GATHER

Christ is born in Bethlehem! O come, let us adore Him! Christmas has come. The waiting and preparations are over—today we join the whole Christian Church on earth in celebrating the birth of Jesus, born in a stable, in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, the city of David. Even though His birth was over two thousand years ago, we continue to proclaim and rejoice, for He is the Savior of the nations. He is the light, the light that pierces the darkness of our lives and gives us life.

PRELUDE “Masters in the Hall”

Ascension Choir

RINGING OF THE BELLS



WELCOME

(Please Stand)

+ PREPARATION +

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherd’s in the field abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing Yonder shines the Infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *John 1:1-5*

Pastor: Joy to the world!

People: The Lord is come!

Pastor: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

People: O come, let us adore Him.

Pastor: The light of the world has come.

People: He shines in our darkness.

Pastor: In the light is life,

People: the life of all people.

Pastor: Joy to the world!

People: The Lord is come!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

We light the Christmas candle And sing with peace and joy.

Our hope is now begotten In Christ, the infant boy.

God's love is with us dwelling, All darkness now dispelling.

We celebrate in light, For God makes all things right!

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CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us therefore go to God's throne of grace, freely confessing our sins.

Pastor: Wonderful Counselor,

People: we confess that too often we have listened to the advice of the dark world around us. Forgive us.

Pastor: Mighty God,

People: we confess that we have ascribed too much power to the forces of evil in this world of sin. Forgive us.

Pastor: Everlasting Father,

People: we confess that in our daily dilemmas we have forgotten the great forgiving love which prompted You to become one of us to die for us. Forgive us.

Pastor: Prince of Peace,

People: we confess that we have not recognized the peace which You have brought to our discordant lives. Forgive us.

Pastor: To us a Child has been born; to us God's Son has been given! 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.

People: Amen.

**Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.**

**Christ, from heav’n to us descending And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.**

**Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God,

People: grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

+ WORD +



OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 52:7–10 (*God’s salvation is cause for singing.*)

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS DAY LITANY REPENTANCE AND REJOICING IN THE CHRIST

Pastor: We bow with humble hearts before the Lord of all Creation.

People: We are not worthy of the least of His mercies.

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love.

People: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sins.

Pastor: Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean.

People: Wash me and I will be whiter than snow. *Psalm 51*

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
People: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. *Isaiah 9*

Pastor: Come let us reason together says the Lord. though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow. *Isaiah 1*
People: for to us a child is born. to us a son is given

Pastor: and His name shall be called
People: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9*

Pastor: A Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.
People: Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth. Amen.



EPISTLE Hebrews 1:1–6 (*Jesus shows us God's true nature.*)

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but 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. ³ He 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, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For 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”? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL VERSE “Let Our Gladness Have No End” *LSB 381, v. 1*

Let our gladness have no end, alleluia! For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!

**REFRAIN: On this day God gave us Christ, His Son to save us;
Christ, His Son to save us.**



HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1–14 (*The Word became flesh.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

“यूहन्ना 1:1-14

आदिमा वचन हुनुहुन्थ्यो, वचन परमेश्वरसँग हुनुहुन्थ्यो, अनि वचन परमेश्वर हुनुहुन्थ्यो। उहाँ आदिमा परमेश्वरसँग हुनुहुन्थ्यो। सबै थोक उहाँद्वारा बनिए, र बनिएको कुनै थोक पनि उहाँविना बनिएन। उहाँमा जीवन थियो, र त्यो जीवन मानिसहरूको ज्योति थियो। त्यो ज्योति अनधिकारमा चमकन्छ, र अनधिकार त्यसमाथि विजयी भएको छैन। परमेश्वरबाट पठाइएका एक जना मानिस थिए, जसको नाउँ यूहन्ना थियो। उनीद्वारा सबैले विश्वास गरून् भनेर त्यस ज्योतिको गवाही दिन उनी साक्षी भई आए। उनी आफै त्यो ज्योति थिएनन्, तर त्यस ज्योतिको गवाही दिन आए। हरेक मानिसलाई ज्ञान प्रदान गर्ने साँचो ज्योति संसारमा आउँदैहुनुहुन्थ्यो। उहाँ संसारमा हुनुहुन्थ्यो, संसार उहाँद्वारा बनियो, तापनि संसारले उहाँलाई चिनेन। उहाँ आफ्नै मानिसहरूका आउनुभयो, तर उहाँका आफ्ना मानिसहरूले उहाँलाई ग्रहण गरेनन्। तर जतिले उहाँलाई ग्रहण गरे र उहाँको नाउँमाथि विश्वास गरे, उहाँले तिनीहरूलाई परमेश्वरका सन्तान हुने अधिकार दिनुभयो। तिनीहरू रगतद्वारा, शारीरिक इच्छाद्वारा, र कुनै मान्छेको इच्छाद्वारा होइन तर परमेश्वरबाट जन्मिएका हुन्छन्। अनि वचन देहधारी हुनुभयो, र अनुग्रह र सत्यताले पूर्ण भई हाम्रा बीचमा वास गर्नुभयो। हामीले उहाँको महिमा देख्यौं, जुन महिमा पिताबाट आउनुभएको एकमात्र पुत्रको जस्तो थियो।”

यूहन्ना 1:1-14

GOSPEL RESPONSE “Let Our Gladness Have No End”

LSB 381, v. 4

Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia! He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia!

Refrain: On this day God gave us Christ, His Son to save us;
Christ, His Son to save us.



APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)

विश्वासको सार

म विश्वास गर्दछु एक ईश्वर सर्वशक्तिमान पिता,
स्वर्ग र पृथ्वी सृजनेमाथि ।
अनि उहाँका एकलो पुत्र हाम्रा प्रभु येशू ख्रीष्टमाथि ।
उहाँ पवित्र आत्माको शक्तिले देहधारी हुनुभयो ।
कन्या मरियमदेखि जन्मनुभयो ।
पन्तियस पिलातसको अधिकारमा दुःख भोग्नुभयो ।
क्रूसमा टाँगिनुभयो ।
मारिनुभयो अनि गाडिनुभयो ।
आत्मालोकमा उत्रनुभयो ।
तेश्रो दिनमा मरेकाहरूबाट बिउँतनुभयो ।
स्वर्गमा चढिजानुभयो ।
सर्वशक्तिमान ईश्वर पिताको दाहिने हातपट्टि
बस्नुभएको छ ।
जहाँदेखि उहाँ जीउँदो र मरेकाहरूको
न्याय गर्नलाई आउनुहुनेछ ।

म विश्वास गर्दछु पवित्र आत्माथि,
पवित्र विश्व मण्डलीमाथि,
पवित्रहरूको संगतिमाथि,
पाप मोचनमाथि
शरीरको पुनरुत्थानमाथि
र अजम्बरी जीवनमाथि । आमेन ।

Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
 He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
 Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
 Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin , full of grace,
 By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
 And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
 Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with once accord,
 Whom the voices of prophet’s Promised in their faithful word.
 Now He shines, the long expected; Let creation praise its Lord
 Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.
 Pow’rs dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
 Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev’ry voice in concert ring
 Evermore and evermore.

△ Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
 Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
 Evermore and evermore. Amen.



SERMON

(Please Stand)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs. Lord Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world. Yet this world is still contaminated with darkness, sin, and evil. Deliver us from darkness by shining the light of Your love to every corner of the world. Light of the world,

People: **shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Lord, death has temporarily claimed many of our friends and family members. During this Christmas season, it can be difficult to celebrate while there is an empty seat around our tables. Send hope to those who mourn the death of loved ones, [*especially . . .*]. Light of the world,

People: **shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Lord, Your Word declares the feet of those who bring good news to be beautiful. Raise up missionaries, pastors, teachers, and other ministers and leaders in Your Church, so that the good news of salvation may be spread to all nations. Light of the world,

People: **shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Lord, when You dwelt among us, You healed many who were weak and sick. We ask for healing for all those in our midst who are sick or recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Cheer their hearts and heal their bodies according to Your perfect will. Light of the world,

People: shine in our darkness.

(Special Petitions)

Pastor: Finally, Lord, as You are full of grace and truth, fill Your Church with grace and truth so we may live according to Your will and share Your Gospel of forgiveness, life, and salvation with the world. Light of the world,

People: shine in our darkness. Amen.

(Please Be Seated)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS “Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”

LSB 475 Ascension Bell Choir

(Please Stand)

OFFERTORY “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380, v.1

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing. “Glory to the new-born King!”**



+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

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

PROPER PREFACE

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:

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing. “Glory to the new-born King!”**

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

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

LSB 162

Pastor: And now, in the words of our Lord, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

हे हाम्रा स्वर्गमा बस्ने पिता,
तपाईंको नाउँ पवित्र गरिओस्
तपाईंको राज्य आओस् ।
तपाईंको इच्छा स्वर्गमा भैँ यस पृथ्वीमा पूरा होस् ।
हाम्रो दिनभरिको भोजन आज हामीलाई दिनुहोस् ।
हाम्रा अपराध क्षमा गर्नुहोस्,
जसरी हामीले पनि आफ्ना अपराधीहरूलाई क्षमा गरेका छौं ।
हामीलाई परीक्षामा नल्याउनुहोस्,
तर दुष्टबाट छुटाउनुहोस् ।
किनभने राज्य, पराक्रम र महिमा सदा सर्वदा तपाईंकै हुन् । आमेन ।

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Once In Royal David’s City”
“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

LSB 376 *Ascension Choir*
LSB 374

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undeiled, 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.**

**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.**

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undeiled 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!**

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

(Please Stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there. Amen.**

Pastor: Christ the Savior is born!

People: **Christ the Savior is born indeed! Alleluia!**



BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the light of Christ dispel all darkness from your life, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and abide with you forever.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Go Tell It On The Mountain”

LSB 388

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is
born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.
*Refrain.***

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.***

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP NOTES

LITURGIST: Pastor Matthew Clark

PREACHER: Rev. Lonie Eatherton

MUSIC MINISTRY: Gabe Maichel, organist, Ascension Choir

ALTAR GUILD: Jan Pendleton

ELDERS: Gene Bockelmann, Jack Pendleton

READER: Mike Gibbs

USHERS: Gene Bockelmann, Nathan Decker, Mark Shaffer;



POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS GREENS ARE GIVEN BY:

*Randy & Sharon Agne with praise to God from whom all blessings flow and for health & healing
Carl Anderson in loving memory of Linda Anderson, R.N., wife, mother and grandmother
Donna Arrigo to my mom for leading me to Jesus and to Christ Jesus for saving me
Joe & Bonita Benda to the glory of God and gifts received
Diane Broughton & Ed Shimamoto a blessed Christmas to our families
Jim & Cheryl Chambers to the glory of God!
Betty Clark in loving memory of my husband, Dennis
Pastor Clark and family in thankfulness to God for the staff of Ascension Lutheran Church
and for the faculty of Word of Life Lutheran School
Don & Eileen Cognata for blessing received
John & Charlene Cook we give thanks for family, friends and Ascension
Kathleen Driskill to our risen Savior and Ralph and Audrey Simon
The Fox Family for blessings received!
Evelyn Gibbs in loving memory of my parents, John & Ruth Good
Clarence & Carol Goetsch to the glory of God
The Hartung Family to the glory of God and the blessings received through Christ our Lord
The Jaenke Family for a healthy, prosperous 2018 for all
Jerry & Arleen Kassing in memory of our son, John and our parents
Roberta Kern & Tyler Kern in memory of Joseph J. Dietrich Sr., In Jesus' loving arms
Robert & Lawanda Kieffer in memory of our parents Oscar & Esther Kieffer
and Henry & Anna Ruegge
James & Kathy Komorech with thanksgiving for blessings received
Carlos & Marla Lopez with thanksgiving for His many blessings
Donna Marohn in memory of mother, Edna Rushing, mother-in-law, Clara Marohn
and sister, Dorothy Hartmann
Roy & Kathy Migneco with thankfulness for God's many blessings
The Moffat family in memory of Barbara Halliburton
Jean Mueller in memory of all my loved ones who are now celebrating Christmas with Jesus
Terry & Nancy Nickolotsky in loving memory of Craig, parents and grandparents
Jack & Jan Pendleton thankful for God's greatest gift, Jesus
The Pfaff family to the glory of God
Pat Pfitzinger with thanks for many blessings and for my family
Doug & Ruth Pritchard in memory of loved ones
Vernon & Debbie Schmidt for the blessing of Calvin and in memory of our parents in heaven
Carolyn Schwaninger with thanks and praise to God for 95 years of blessings
The Thies family to the glory of God!
Peggy Triska for the blessing of the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ, family, and friends
Darleen Wiederhold in loving memory of Gene Wiederhold
Jack & Cindy Winter in memory of Harold Todd who loved Christmas and his Savior*





For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.

Luke
2:11

Blessings to All!

Your Ascension Staff

Pastor Clark

Jerry Kasson

Dabe Maichel

Sherry Elliott

Pam Fox

Barbara Hartung

Kathy
Zies

Tina A. Freudenberg