

December 25, 2022

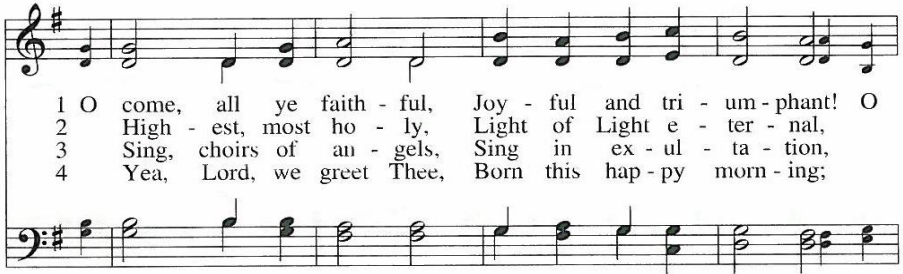


CHRISTMAS
DAY

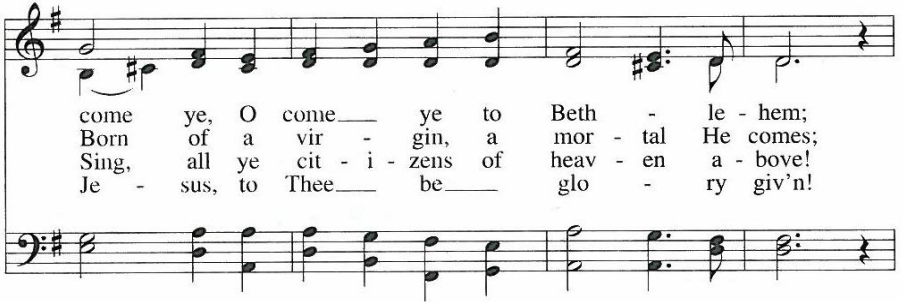
WELCOME

PREPARATION

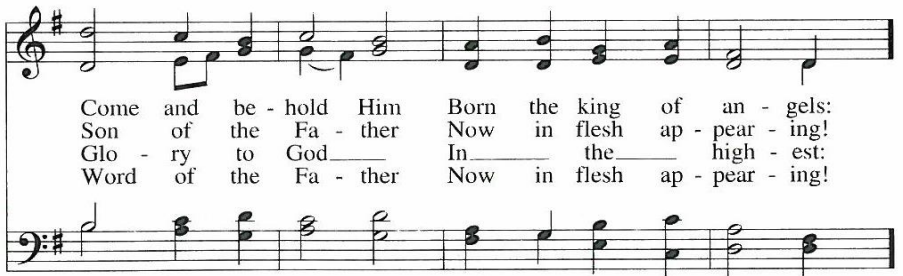
HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful"



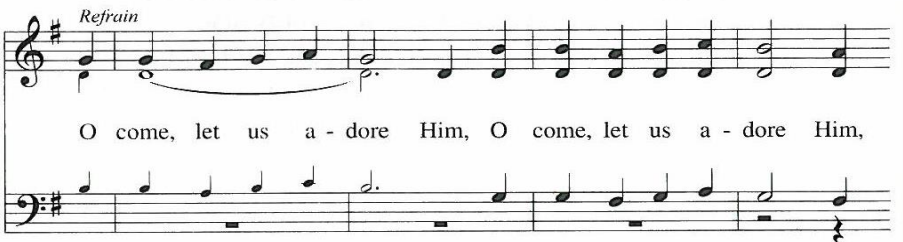
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



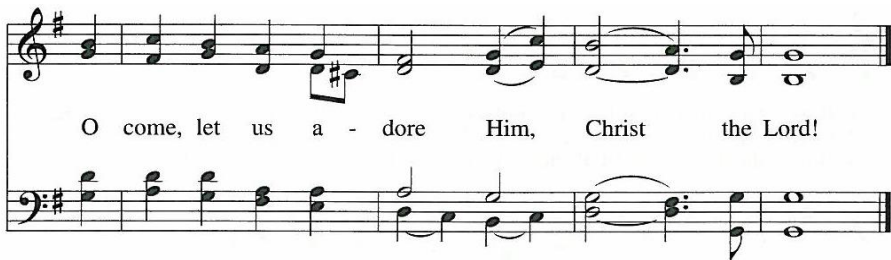
come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



Refrain
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH *Psalm 100*

Pastor: On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

People: Serve the LORD with gladness!

Pastor: Come into His presence with singing!

People: Know that the LORD, He is God!

Pastor: It is He who made us, and we are His;

People: we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

People: Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

Pastor: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

People: and His faithfulness to all generations.

The candles are lit.

HYMN

“What Child is This”

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

John 1:4–5; Isaiah 52:10

Pastor: Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.

People: We are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

Pastor: John writes in our Gospel lesson, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

People: Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.

Pastor: For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

People: 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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

WORD

GREETING OF PEACE *As you greet others, please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands. Other options while saying “Peace be with you. / And also with you” is to place your hand on your heart, a head nod or to bow.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the celebration of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

People: Help us and all people to the ends of the earth to see the salvation You have delivered to the world through this holy child.

Pastor: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING 1 Peter 1:10-12

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1–14

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: He was in the beginning with God.

Pastor: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

People: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pastor: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

People: He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

Pastor: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

People: He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

Pastor: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

People: 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark the Herald Angels"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain

Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born King!”

SERMON **“The Light”**

OFFERING *You may contribute online by texting the amount to 517-879-0989 and following the prompts. Alternately, gifts may be placed in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.*

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 and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made truly human;
 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

Pastor: Let us pray in song and in words spoken for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” v. 4

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93
Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908
Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: Father, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world as an infant, to be our Savior and to forgive our sins.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

HYMN "Away in a Manger" v. 3

3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text: Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905
Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

People: **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

HYMN "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" v 13

13 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child, Pre - pare a
bed, soft, un - de - filed, A qui - et cham - ber
set a - part For You to dwell with - in my heart.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann
Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing

our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, even amid Christmas peace and joy, we experience the hurt and harm of this world. We lift up all those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, [*especially* . . .]. Reach out to them with Your holy arm and the light of our Savior that they may be comforted in their time of need, seeing the salvation You have prepared for all through faith.

Additional petitions may follow.

Pastor: All these things we bring before You, through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Let All Together Praise Our God” v. 7



△ 7 Your grace in low - li - ness re - vealed, Lord Je - sus,
we a - dore And praise to God the Fa - ther yield And
Spir - it ev - er - more; We praise You ev - er - more.

Text: tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001

Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002511

Tune: Public domain

SACRAMENT

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and entered human history bringing the Good News. Through the gracious gift of Your Son, Jesus, we with joy and in faith receive Your gifts. We give thanks that Your Word has been fulfilled through the prophets, and thank You that in Christ the assurance of heaven has been won for us. Grant us now that we may faithfully receive Him as the gift for us wrapped in, with, and under bread and wine, together with the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. To You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory, now and forever.

People: Amen

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 cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

DISTRIBUTION

Please approach the altar as space is available. You may receive communion from pre-packaged elements or the common loaf, along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free options are available.

HYMNS “Infant Holy, infant Lowly”



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!

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that we have seen Your salvation in our Savior born this day, and in His body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. We implore You that of Your infinite love, mercy, and forgiveness, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, that we would share the gifts of grace and be the beautiful feet with the Good News of Christ the Savior born, in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: Christmas peace and joy through Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours; and the blessing of God Almighty—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be and abide with you forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

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!