



December 25, 2022

The Nativity of Our Lord

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist  
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## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

♪ 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:

~O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

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

♪ Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,...

♪ Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God In the highest: ~O come,...

♪ Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 379-Text & Tune: John F. Wade c.1711-86; tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80;  
Setting: The Hymnal 1940; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Invocation

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

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

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

**Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**

Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless His name!**

For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

*Psalms 100*

## Confession and Absolution

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

**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.

**The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

*John 1:1, 4-5, 9*

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.

**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.**

“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.

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

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

**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.** *A Time of Silence*

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.

**Amen.**

The 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.**

*Isaiah 52:10*

**Hymn of Praise** *Please Be Seated*

“Now Sing We, Now, Rejoice”

♪ Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav’n our voice; He from whom joy streameth  
Poor in a manger lies; Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

♪ Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee. Cheer my wearied spirit,  
O pure and holy Child; Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!

♪ Now through His Son doth shine The Father’s grace divine. Death was reigning o’er us  
Through sin and vanity Till He opened for us A bright eternity.  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

♪ Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav’nly ground? Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite, Sweetest praises bringing In heav’nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 386-Text: Latin and German 14<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell 1806-74; Tune: German;  
Setting: Richard W. Hillert b.1923; ©1969 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

**The Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

<sup>7</sup>How 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.”

<sup>8</sup>The 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.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Verse Hymn

“Away in a Manger”

♪ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

♪ The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

♪ 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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 364-Text: Little Children's Book, Philadelphia 1885, vv. 1-2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville 1892, v.3  
Tune: James R. Murray 1841-1905; setting: Joseph Herl b.1959; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## The Epistle

Hebrews 1:1–6

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>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”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn *Please Stand*

“What Child Is This”

- ♪ What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 370-Text: William C. Dix 1837-98; Tune: English 16<sup>th</sup> cent.;  
Setting: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Holy Gospel

John 1:1–14

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

### Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to You, O Christ.

## The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- ♪ O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
- ♪ For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

♪ How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

♪ O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 361 -Text: Phillips Brooks 1835-93; Tune: Lewis H. Redner 1831-1908;  
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Proclamation of the Word

“Graciously”

John 1:1–14

## Nicene Creed

## Offering and Musical Offering

## Admonition to the Communicants

## Lord's Prayer

## Words of Our Lord

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Distribution Hymns

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

♪ Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

~Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

♪ Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? ~Glo-ria...

♪ Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. ~Glo-ria....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 368-Text: French, tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London 1862  
Tune: French, setting: Edward S. Barnes 1887-1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

♪ 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 th' angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
~Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

♪ 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 th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! ~Hark!...

♪ Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. ~Hark!....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 380 -Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn 1809-47;  
Setting: William H. Cummings 1831-1915; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Dismissal

### Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

*Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

### Benediction

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 favor and + give you peace.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Joy to the World”

♪ Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

♪ Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

♪ No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

♪ He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 387-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: George Frideric Handel 1685-1759;  
Setting: Lowell Mason 1792-1872; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Postlude