



CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2025



Rev. Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor

WELCOME in the name of Jesus, who was born for you so that He might make you His own and give His Kingdom to you!

Pre-Service Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to be my Savior. Thank You for calling me out of darkness into Your light and making me a child of God. Give me a deep desire for Your Word so that I will crave the Gospel and be nourished by it. Enable me to boldly proclaim Your praises. Bless us all in worship tonight. Amen.

Welcome

A blessed Christmas to each of you here this morning. May your Christmas be a celebration of our Lord and Savior's nativity. Setting aside secular "Holiday greetings" and commercial jingles, may the angels of Christmas brighten your day with the joyful tidings that God became flesh and dwelt among us for you, the Almighty became weak for you, the Lord of all has become poor for you. The little Child tightly bound in strips of cloth and laid in a rude manger has become your liberty and your rest from sin, the terrors of death, and the anguish of hell. On such a day as this, take notice of the wonderful gift of music. It tells of the wonderful news of the Savior being born to us. Let us not sing, "I'll be home for Christmas, if the FATES allow," sentiment. But let us sing of the great victory that Jesus by His birth, perfect life, death on the cross, resurrection from the dead, and His ascension into Heaven has won for us.

♪ 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful (*Refrain on the next page*)

sts. 1, ref, 2-4



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,
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt. | Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786 | Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.

Confession of Sins (Pastor and Congregation):

C Lord God, we confess that we also have walked in darkness. We too have pursued the dark ways and sinful desires of the world, rather than walking in the Light of our Savior. We confess our many sins of thought, word, and deed. We pray, asking that you would forgive us out of Your grace. Have mercy upon us and pardon us, even as You also strengthen us and keep us in the saving faith of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Rejoice! God has sent His Son. Jesus is born to save you from your sins. God has made you His beloved children through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son. Enter into His courts with praise and thanksgiving. Enter into His presence free from your sins, renewed by Jesus, and filled with the love and joy of God's grace!

You may be seated.

387 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 | Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt. | Text and tune: Public domain

- P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.
- C** All things came into being by Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- P** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- C** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

Christmas Collect

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 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

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 1:1–12

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 O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1–20

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David

a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

370 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98 | Tune: English, 16th cent. | Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand as we confess together Luther's Explanation of The Second Article of the Apostle's Creed.

- A** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Responsive Readings

Luke 1:46–55

- P** My soul now magnifies the Lord; My spirit shall in God rejoice. My humble state He did regard, exalting me by gracious choice.
- C** Henceforth shall people call me blessed.
- P** For great things He has done for me. The mighty God is now my Guest; The Holy One has set me free.
- C** His mercy is on all who fear Him, Who trust in Him from age to age. His arm of strength to all is near; The proud He scatters, though they rage.
- P** He brings down rulers from their thrones, and raises those of low degree. He fills the hungry souls with good things; The rich He sends away empty.
- C** He helped His servant Israel, Remembering His eternal grace. As from of old He did foretell to Abraham and all his race.
- A** So praise with me the Holy One, Who comes in all humility. To our Redeemer, God's own Son, be glory in eternity!

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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 Righ-teous-ness!



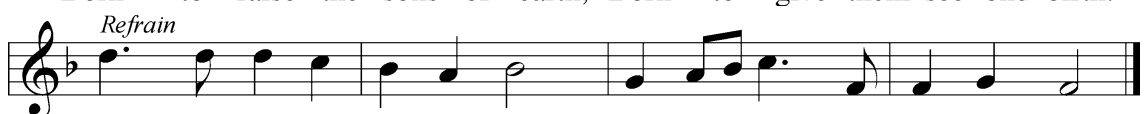
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



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!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. | Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47 | Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

John 8:12

¹²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt. | Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79 | Text and tune: Public domain


Christmas Offering

Please stand.

Christmas Prayers

Lord's Prayer

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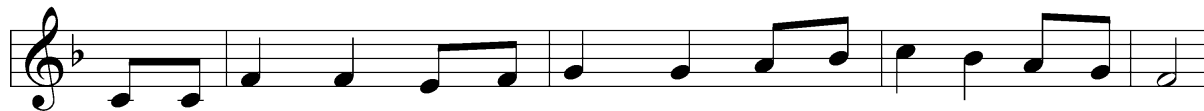
 Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

You may be seated.

393 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!

3. Mary's praising, God for raising, up our souls to God on high,
Through this Child, oh so mild, of His death for us we sigh,
Tell the story, of the glory, of God's love for all mankind,
God shows us His favor now, to this Child we all shall bow.

4. Oh to all you, who are sleeping, and from Him have gone astray,
He is calling, be not stalling, and to Him do not say 'nay,'
Jesus is the, ever living, God who loves both you and me,
Jesus reigns in heaven now, Jesus reigns in heaven now.

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. | Text and tune: Polish | Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

Benediction

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 favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.



363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1-3

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-85
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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