

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
Candle light service

December 24, 2017 7:00 pm



During the Christmas season, the Lectionary readings invite us to reflect on the Incarnation of God: Jesus, God's Word made flesh. In the person of Christ, God enters human history and identifies with the human condition. Traditional colors of the season include white and gold, symbolizing joy in the light of day. The use of the color red is symbolizing God's love.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Proclamation of the Birth of Jesus

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283 (red book)

Greeting

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☞ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High
vs 1 & 2

ELW 289

Prayer of the Day

☞ Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.

☞ **Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

☞ A reading from **Isaiah**.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

☞ God, we thank you for your Word,

☞ **the story of your grace.**

Psalm 96



- ¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- ³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. **
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. **
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples
with equity."**
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
- ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**
- ¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth. 

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

A A reading from **Titus**.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L God, we thank you for your Word,

G the story of your grace.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Holy Child within the Manger

WOV 638 (blue book)

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- ☐ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Message

Silence for reflection

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Song of the Day

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290 (red book)

Nicene Creed

☐ We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

☑ **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☐ This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God.

A brief silence.

☐ We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☐ We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

A We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death. We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We bring to the manger all people who, like the holy family, gather with children in the splendor of this most holy night, that the gift of faith be lavished on another generation. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

C **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

The offering is received as the table is prepared.

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

In The Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294 (red book)

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . God with us: You came as a baby to a manger.

C You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and a bass line. A piano (p) dynamic marking is present at the beginning of the bass staff.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. It maintains the same key signature and time signature. A piano (p) dynamic marking is present at the beginning of the bass staff.

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

The third line of musical notation concludes the phrase. It continues the melody and accompaniment. A piano (p) dynamic marking is present at the beginning of the bass staff.

Lis-ten to the an-gels sing: "Glo-ry, glo-ry,
glo-ry," let the heav-ens ring!

Eucharistic Prayer

☞ Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

☞ **In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.**

☞ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

☞ **Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.**

☞ By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

☞ **Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☞ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive the Savior.

Sit

Sharing the Meal

The usher(s) will release you from the pew. Left side and right side will process forward simultaneously forming two lines, to receive holy communion. Let the usher know if would like to receive communion in the pew.

Lamb of God: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly **ELW 276** (red book)

What Child Is This **ELW 296**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory **ELW 275**

One in Royal David's City **ELW 269**

Stand

Prayer after Communion

A On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

C As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

P May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song

Peace, Peace(*choir*)/**Silent Night**
arr Rick & Sylvia Powell

ELW 281 (red book)

Dismissal

A Glory to God in the highest!

C Peace to God's people on earth!

A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.