



*Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about
"Proclaiming God's grace through faith and love."*

If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don't hesitate to ask a question.

*You can follow the whole service here in this folder as well as on the displays. Some parts of
the service will be found in the burgundy "Lutheran Service Book" hymnals in the pew back.*

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2021

Prelude

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #361
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above they 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.**
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above
While mortals sleep and 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!**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. 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!**

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

C and the Word was God.

P The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C and we have seen His glory. *John 1:1, 14*

A Christmas Beginning

Verse

“Joy to the World” – LSB #387, vv. 1, 2

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.

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

C Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together. *(Ps. 98:4, 7-8)*

Verse

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” – LSB #380, vv. 3

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! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

P 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.” 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.

C **Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.** (*Is. 52:7-10*)

Verse

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” – LSB #386, vv. 1

**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!**

P Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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.

C **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.** (*Hebrews 1:1-3a*)

Verse

“Silent Night” – LSB #363 – TUNE ONLY

**Silent night, holy night, brings to earth saving light;
Grace fulfilled to us is giv’n,
From the golden heights of heaven,
Comes in lowly birth, comes in lowly birth.**

P But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

C **Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.** (*Titus 3:4-7*)

- P** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (*Gal. 4:4-5*)

Verse

“Silent Night” – LSB #363 – TUNE ONLY

Silent night! Holy night! Grants us grace, from sin’s plight;

Stills God’s wrath as was foretold

By His prophets in days of old.

Peace, goodwill to all. Peace, goodwill to all.

Confession & Absolution

- P** Almighty God, we are people who have walked in darkness.
- C** **We have failed to look to the light of Christ.**
- P** Although we call Him the Prince of Peace
- C** **We have fought with each other and have no peace in our hearts.**
- P** We proclaim the wonders of His love
- C** **But we fail to love You or our neighbor.**
- P** Although we show devotion and love for You at Christmas,
- C** **At other times of the year we forget all about You.**
- P** We are indeed unworthy for Christ to come among us.
- C** **Forgive our sins for the sake of Jesus.**

There is silence for self-reflection

- P** To us a child is born, to us a Son is given. The angel said: “You shall call Him Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins. Because of Jesus, His birth, death, and resurrection, and by His command and in His stead, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

- P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- C** **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.**

P Let us pray,

C Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that the new birth of Your only-begotten Son in human flesh may set us free, who through sin are held in bondage. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Lutheran Service Book #366

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

1. It came upon a midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov’ring wing.
And ever o’er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.
3. All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.
4. For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song of angels sing.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

“All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”

L The Old Testament Reading for Christmas Day is from Isaiah, chapter 52.

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.”

⁸ 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.

⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

“The Supremacy of God’s Son”

L The Epistle Reading is from Hebrews, chapter one.

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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Lutheran Service Book #384, v. 1

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**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.**

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #383

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

1. A Great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:

The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure! refrain

Refrain

Proclaim the Savior’s birth: “To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!”

2. The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,

And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. refrain

3. While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. *refrain*
4. Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord. *refrain*
5. All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace. *refrain*

Sermon

Confession of Faith

The Creed - Second Article & Meaning

- P** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,
- C** **Begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**
- P** He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
- C** **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 His innocent suffering and death.**
- P** All this He has done that I might be His own,
- C** **and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,**
- P** Just as He is risen from the dead
- C** **and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

Offering

"For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." – John 1:16

Please use this time to pray and to sign the Record of Fellowship. We ask that everyone—members and first-time or returning guests— please sign this folder for us. Pass it down the pew to others sitting near you. The ushers will pick them up after the last service.

Prayer of the Church

(Historic Nativity Prayers from St. Augustine, Bernard of Clairvaux, and Robert Louis Stevenson)

- P** Let the just rejoice, for their Justifier is born.
- C** **Let the sick and infirm rejoice, For their Savior is born.**
- P** Let the captives rejoice, For their Redeemer is born.
- C** **Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.**
- P** Let free men rejoice, For their Liberator is born.
- C** **Let all Christians rejoice, For Jesus Christ is born. Amen.**
- P** Let Your goodness, Lord, appear to us,
that we made in Your image conform ourselves to it.
- C** **In our own strength we cannot imitate Your majesty, power, and wonder,
nor is it fitting for us to try. But Your mercy reaches from the heavens
through the clouds to the earth below.**
- P** You have come to us as a small child, but You have brought us the greatest of all
gifts, the gift of eternal love.
- C** **Caress us with Your tiny hands, embrace us with Your tiny arms and pierce
our hearts with Your soft, sweet cries. Amen.**
- P** Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the
song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise
men.
- C** **Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let
kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.**
- P** Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be
merry with clear hearts.
- C** **May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the
Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and
forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Sentences

P How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!

C **So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.**

P No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,

C **Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

(LSB 361:3)

P May God the Father hold you in His comfort, peace, and joy.

C **Amen.**

P May the Lord Jesus Christ who entered our world as the Son of Mary enter your hearts with His grace.

C **Amen.**

P May the Holy Spirit unwrap the gifts of the Lord's salvation in your soul.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book # 370

“What Child Is This”

- 1. 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!**
- 2. 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 born for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!**
- 3. 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!**