

St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



December 25, 2024
"Idols and Lies, Word and Flesh"

Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather

At Christmas, our lives and attention are often occupied not only with the smaller details of the season—the decorations, the gifts, the special menus, the schedule of events—but also with those details of greater importance: family, parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren, as well as those of more distant relationships.

Greater than that, as Christians we center our celebration here in God's presence to hear God's Word, to attend to what is most important, which alone can give all the other details of life its most solid foundation. That Word puts everything else in its proper perspective, including our place and participation in the kingdom of God. The "big picture" includes God's amazing creation from the beginning, as well as our part in mankind's fall into sin and struggle with Satan and death.

Then enters God's great remedy: our salvation from sin and death through the redemption that is in God Himself, in the person of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord. His incarnation and birth from the virgin Mary was a great miracle—God taking on our human flesh and blood. Greater, however, was His own sacrifice in our flesh, by which He has cast down Satan and his lies and raised up a new creation to new, eternal life. On this day, amid any and all distractions and details, the familiar hymn has it right: "How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!" (*LSB* 728:1).

Preparation

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2–4

**1 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: Refrain**

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

**2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain**

**4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

LSB 383:2

P The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,

C and cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

P Proclaim the Savior's birth:

C "To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

Confession and Absolution

P The infant Christ—the radiance of the glory of God—came to make purification for the sins of the world, to swallow up death forever, and to be the light of life for those who walked in darkness. In praise of God's mighty deliverance, we humble ourselves before Him in repentant prayer.

C Lord God, heavenly Father, we bow before You and confess that we indeed have walked in darkness; in the blindness of sin, we have neglected You, lost by our own fault. But we have seen the great light in the gift of Your only Son. Enlighten our hearts, our minds, and our lives by the forgiveness of our sins and the great promises of Your heavenly grace and mercy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P God has spoken His promises by the prophets, and now in these last days has spoken to us by His Son. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, announce the grace of God to all of you and speak His own absolution: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Word

Introit for Christmas Day *Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon:*
Isaiah 9:6

**C For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marv'lous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth, break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Text: ESV® Text: © 2001 Crossway Bibles. Used by permission:
Creative Worship License no. 110005513

Kyrie

186

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52: 7–10

⁷How 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."

⁸The 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.

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

¹⁰The 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1–6

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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

John 1:14

P Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we
have seen His glory,

**C glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and
truth. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–14

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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

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

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

¹⁴And 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.

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

**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!**

**2 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!

3 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!

4 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!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering

SACRAMENT

Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 208

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymn

364 Away in a Manger

- 1** 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.
- 2** 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.
- 3** 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.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children’s Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3):
Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt. Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

387 Joy to the World

1 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.

2 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.

**3 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.**

**4 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.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–Text: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Used by permission.