

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25, 2016
10:00am

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN *“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”* # 288 ELW

INTRODUCTION

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

Leader: The world is decked in the garb of celebration:

People: Tinsel and lights, garlands of greenery, brightly colored packages and flashing Christmas greetings cover our world.

Leader: The world is engaged in the spirit of celebration:

People: Festive singing, fine food, merry parties, and grand Tradition abound.

Leader: Yet the best efforts fall short,

People: For it is the birth of the Messiah we celebrate.

Leader: It is the incarnation of God.

People: How can we respond to the greatness of this event?

Leader: How can we celebrate the Messiah's birth?

People: We celebrate in worship.

Leader: Christmas is a time of worship. It is the moment when the busiest pause in wonder.

People: Let us worship together!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, ✝ one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for self reflection

Gracious God,

in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our

down before the LORD, all you gods.

⁸Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰You who love the LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

¹¹Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

¹²Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

[¹In 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.

HYMN: “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

290 ELW

SERMON: “God Speaks to us Through God’s Son”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ’s birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you raise up leaders throughout the church to proclaim your word of hope. Unite the church through the good news of salvation, so that all will know and experience your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you created mountains and hills, seas and rivers, and all creatures. Reveal to us the goodness of all you have made so that we live wisely with these your gifts. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you desire that all people live in peace. Guide all in positions of authority to lead with equity, and give courage to advocates who speak for the voiceless. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you sent your Son to be our physician and remedy. Strengthen medical professionals and counselors to care for the sick and grieving (*especially*), so that all people experience healing and consolation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you gather us together in community, blessing us with friends and family. Make yourself known to all who participate in worship today, and send us forth to serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy God, you show your love and faithfulness in every generation. Through the witness of our ancestors in the faith, you have shown us how to testify to your grace and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING AND OFFERATORY PRAYER

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

CHRISTMAS CREED

ALL: I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent his Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by angels,

worshipped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ, my worship, my life, my love; to live under him as my king, both now and forevermore. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN “The First Noel” (*Congregation sings during distribution*) # 300 ELW

COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

“Joy To The World”

#267 ELW

SERVING THIS DAY

Lector: Lynn Hansen

Ushers: Skip & Lynn Hansen

Music: London Feland & Jim Christensen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are welcome to stay and enjoy a Christmas meal together immediately following today's worship service.

Only One Worship Service, at 9:00am, on Sundays in January, February & March 2017

When you see your families this Holiday Season please remind them that Vacation Bible School is the third full week of June. That will be June 19-23, 2017.

***BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE ON THIS
WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS MORNING.
GO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS—
CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!!***

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