



Christmas
DAY

THE LIFE IN THE LIGHT

AS WE GATHER

Christ is born in Bethlehem! O come, let us adore Him! Christmas has come. The waiting and preparations are over—today we join the whole Christian Church on earth in celebrating the birth of Jesus, born in a stable, in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, the city of David. Even though His birth was over two thousand years ago, we continue to proclaim and rejoice, for He is the Savior of the nations. He is the light, the light that pierces the darkness of our lives and gives us life.

+ PREPARATION +

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.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

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INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Joy to the world!
C The Lord is come!
- P** Christ is born in Bethlehem.
C O come, let us adore Him.
- P** The light of the world has come.
C He shines in our darkness.
- P** In the light is life,
C the life of all people.
- P** Joy to the world!
C The Lord is come!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** As we gather together to worship Jesus and remember His wondrous incarnation, we remember that we were once lost in darkness and do not deserve the wondrous gift of the Savior God has sent us.
C We have often chosen darkness over light. We have often failed to adore our Lord and Savior. We have often refused to reflect His light to those around us.
- P** We turn to God in repentance and implore Him for mercy.

Silence for reflection

- P** Lord, You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
C Let Your light shine in our darkness.

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets. But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son. Jesus Christ has brought the good news of peace, joy, and salvation into our world. That good news is the forgiveness of sins, salvation, and everlasting life in the light of Christ. These are yours because of Christ's death and resurrection for you. Hear that good news: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

+ WORD +

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.

KYRIE

368 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift. By the incarnation of Your Son, You have given Your creation the perfect gifts of light and life. May the light of Christ continually pierce the darkness of our lives; through the same, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our light, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7–10

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. 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 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.

365 AWAY IN A MANGER



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–12

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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like 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.”

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–18

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

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

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

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. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

NICENE CREED

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

358 FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad-dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share,
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

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SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world. Yet this world is still contaminated with darkness, sin, and evil. Deliver us from darkness by shining the light of Your love to every corner of the world. Light of the world,

C shine in our darkness.

P Lord, You are life for all people, both in this world and the next. Comfort those nearing the end of life with the hope of the resurrection from the dead, that they may face the enemy of death knowing that death has been defeated and will not have the final word. Light of the world,

C shine in our darkness.

P Lord, death has temporarily claimed many of our friends and family members. During this Christmas season, it can be difficult to celebrate while there is an empty seat around our tables. Send hope to those who mourn the death of loved ones, [*especially* . . .]. Light of the world,

C shine in our darkness.

P Lord, You have given us grace upon grace, but we still struggle with disappointments in this world. Sing Your grace into the lives of those who are struggling with stress and anxiety, unemployment and homelessness, infertility and miscarriage. Light of the world,

C shine in our darkness.

P Lord, Your Word declares the feet of those who bring good news to be beautiful. Raise up missionaries, pastors, teachers, and other ministers and leaders in Your Church, so that the good news of salvation may be spread to all nations. Light of the world,

C shine in our darkness.

P Lord, You came to us as the ultimate gift of love at Your incarnation. We rejoice today at Your lavish love. We also join in rejoicing with those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions. Light of the world,

C shine in our darkness.

P Finally, Lord, as You are full of grace and truth, fill Your Church with grace and truth so we may live according to Your will and share Your Gospel of forgiveness, life, and salvation with the world. Light of the world,

C shine in our darkness. Amen.

+ 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 saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



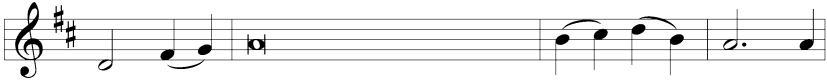
grant us peace, grant us peace.

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMN +

379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

LSB 199



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



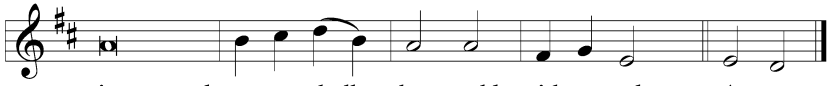
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P 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.

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.

388 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

Be - hold, through - out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

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