



Christmas Day December 25, 2020

PRESERVICE MUSIC – RINGING OF THE BELLS – WELCOME

As We Gather

Glory is the theme of both John's account and Luke's familiar details of the Savior's birth. They are not mutually exclusive but speak of the same event. The surprise is that glory is not where we would have expected it or what we would have expected it to be. Hidden in the manger is the Word made flesh, the same creating Word that spoke all things into being. Hidden in the flesh of a baby is the glory of the God who becomes His people's Savior. Hidden in the faith that trusts this Word are eyes to see and ears to hear the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the Word made flesh, God has displayed His glory, and that glory appeared in order to give us the right to become the children of God.

Opening Hymn **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

LSB 379

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

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: Public domain

Please stand

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

- P The people who walked in darkness
C **have seen a great light!**
P For behold, I bring you good news of great joy!
C **Unto us is born this day a Savior!**
P He is Christ, the Lord!
C **Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!**

Confession and Absolution

- P Today we celebrate Christmas, the incarnation of Jesus, the Word of God becoming flesh. Jesus came to bring peace and joy through all the earth, yet centuries later, our world is still filled with war and violence, hopelessness and despair. Too often, we have spread the evils of the world, rather than the joy and peace of Jesus. But our heavenly Father invites us to come before Him to ask for His forgiveness.
- P Heavenly Father,
C **we confess that we have failed to live in the joy and peace of Jesus. We have taken Your salvation for granted. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we know the joy of the Lord.**
- P Our heavenly Father sent Jesus to embrace all people. Jesus comes to heal the sick, to preach good news to the poor, and to forgive sinners like you and me. Therefore, 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen. We are joyful in Jesus. We are forgiven in Christ.**

Hymn of Praise Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Refrain
- ref Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

- 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. Refrain

Text: Public domain

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin.
Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your
visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C **and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

P And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P Sing to the Lord a new song,

C **for He has done marvelous things!**

Epistle

Titus 3:4–7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he 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, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs
according to the hope of eternal life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Public domain

Sermon "What Does the birth of Jesus mean to us?" Luke 2:1-20

Prayer of the Church

- P Dear heavenly Father, in the incarnation of Jesus You revealed good news and great joy for all the earth to hear. Embolden us to spread the good news and great joy of Your Son to the ends of the earth. For the people who walked in darkness
- C **have seen a great light.**
-
- P Lord, the darkness of death still envelops us, and many are suffering in grief. Comfort those grieving loved ones with hope of the resurrection to eternal peace and life, [*especially* . . .]. For the people who walked in darkness
- C **have seen a great light.**

P Lord, shine Your light upon all of the leaders of the world, that we live in peace and quietness without war or violence. For the people who walked in darkness

C **have seen a great light.**

P Lord, You have shined the light of Christ on the world. Help us reflect Your light to those who are experiencing the darkness of the world. Bring community to the lonely, stability to those in transition, and safety to all those who have suffered abuse. For the people who walked in darkness

C **have seen a great light.**

P Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. For the people who walked in darkness

C **have seen a great light.**

P Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. For the people who walked in darkness

C **have seen a great light. Amen.**

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.**

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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn Joy to the World

LSB 387

- 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.

- 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: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.