

Christmas Day Divine Service

St. Paul's/Grace - Strasburg



December 25, 2021

Hymn of Invocation 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
- 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
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Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.; Luke 18:13

- P Our help is in the name of the LORD,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

- P Since we are gathered this Christmas morning to hear God's Word, to marvel at the mystery of the Word becoming flesh, and to receive Him as He comes to us in His body and blood, let us first consider our unworthiness before God and confess before Him and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We

cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition; only God's Son, Jesus Christ, has set us free from our fears and failures, our sin and death, and He enables us to live forever as God's children. Let us then take refuge in the infinite mercy of our God and, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, say: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, born into this world on Christmas, to live, suffer, die, and rise again for you. For Jesus' sake, your heavenly Father forgives you all your sins. As your pastor, it is my privilege to announce this message of grace unto you and, as Christ has commanded, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 98; antiphon: v. 2

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

P The LORD has made known His salvation;

C **He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

P He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

C **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

P Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

C **with the lyre and the sound of melody!**

P With trumpets and the sound of the horn

C **make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

P Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

C **the world and those who dwell in it!**

P Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.

C **He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

**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.**

Kyrie

LSB 186

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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

C Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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 our sin that we may rejoice in the salvation You have delivered unto us; 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 62:10–12

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. ¹¹Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹²And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6, adapt.; Psalm 98:1a

P Unto us

C **a child is born!**

P Unto us

C **a son is given!**

P And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

C **And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Sings – Arise and Shine (Joseph M. Martin)

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!"

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain
- 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
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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.**

Nicene Creed

C **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.

Hymn of the Day Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

LSB 375

- 1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.
- 2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.
- 3 Jacob's star in all its splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.

- 4 From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.
- 5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free.
- 6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.
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Sermon Luke 2:1–20 “Glorifying and Praising God”

Prayer of the Church

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

Wonderful Counselor, You govern all things with wisdom, righteousness, and truth. Grant to Your creation the joy of Your presence, that we may see You at work in our midst. Guide the nations of the earth to Your Son, that all would know Your salvation. Wherever the good news of great joy is announced this day, grant that lives are changed forever by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord:

- C **We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.**

- P Mighty God, Your power knows no limits. You reign over all things and yet, in Christ, You stoop down to save us. Give to us, Your Church, the power to declare Your mighty deeds throughout the world. Inspire us to fulfill our earthly callings so that, through our lives of joyful service, all would know of Your grace and mercy. Let us pray to the Lord:

- C **We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.**

- P Everlasting Father, You embrace us and make us Your children through faith in Your only-begotten Son. Bless all those who, in any form of sickness or infirmity, need Your tender care. Heal the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and grant Your saving power to all who rest in You. Let us pray to the Lord:

- C **We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.**

P Prince of Peace, You give to us what the world can never give. Drive out all fears and doubts. Deliver us from all enemies, seen and unseen. Grant us solace in Him whose blood has set us free that we would be Your people forever. Open our ears to the message of the angels: "Fear not! For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!" Let us pray to the Lord:

C **We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.**

P Fearing, loving, and trusting in You above all things, we entrust all of these prayers to Your mercy, O Lord, for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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, for the countless blessings You have given to us and all creation. This day we rejoice with the heavenly host as they proclaim the glad tidings of great joy, knowing that the Word has become flesh and made His dwelling among us. Your holy Child, who entered our world that first Christmas, comes unto us again this day in His body and blood as we are drawn unto Your holy presence. 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 195

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O mighty God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

You have come unto us in the babe of Bethlehem, who grew up to live the holy life we cannot live so that, by His death and resurrection, we are granted forgiveness, full and free, and drawn unto You for all eternity.

All glory and honor belong to You, O Lord, as You fill us with Your presence in this sacred Meal that we may forever rejoice in Your salvation.

Hear us as we pray in Your Son's name and in the words He has taught us:

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

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

Angels from the Realms of Glory	LSB 367
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child	LSB 374
Once in Royal David's City	LSB 376

Nunc Dimittis LSB 199

- C **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P Let us pray.
You have come unto us, O Father, in the precious body and blood of Christ, our Lord. Grant that we who have received Your salvation rejoice in You all our days; 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

Isaiah 9:6, adapt.; Numbers 6:24–26

- P Unto us
- C **a child is born!**
- P Unto us
- C **a son is given!**
- P And the government shall be upon His shoulder.
- C **And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- 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.**

Recessional 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.

- 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.
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