

Let Earth Receive Her King A Service for Christmas Day



Order of Service

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1:16

Invocation and Call to Worship

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- C** **He was with God in the beginning.**
- P** Through him all things were made.
- C** **Without him nothing was made that has been made.**
- P** In him was life, and that life was the light of men.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
- C** **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only.**

P Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
C From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
P Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing—
C O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Opening Carol *“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

Confession and Forgiveness

- P Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Heavenly Father, we are in great need of great grace.
- C For we have sinned against you, in thought, word, and deed.**
- P Sin traps us in despair.
- C And locks us up in anger and resentment.**
- P Sin binds us to guilt.
- C And imprisons us in darkness and doubt.**
- P Sin shackles us to shame.
- C And leaves us behind the bars of loneliness and loss.**

You are invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.

- P Hear the Christmas Gospel! The Word became flesh to bear your sin and be your Savior. From the cradle Jesus loves you and from the cross Jesus forgives you. I invite you to believe and receive this promise: Jesus paid for your sin, forgives it completely, and loves you everlastingly! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing—
- C O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Prayer of the Day

- P 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. Amen.

Children's Sermon

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

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were
under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And
because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our
hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but
a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

P Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

C When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son. Hallelujah!

Holy Gospel

John 1:14-18

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

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

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. ¹⁵(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.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No 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.**

Sermon Carol

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

Sermon

“Let Earth Receive Her King”

John 1:14

Prayers

P Merciful and mighty Father, we thank and praise you for your Word that spoke creation into existence.

C Your Word directed, controlled, and shaped every event in the Old Testament.

P Merciful and mighty Father, we thank and praise you that your Word became flesh.

C The creative, powerful, and enduring Word became one of us.

P Merciful and mighty Father, we thank and praise you that your Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

C Us!

P Not just the high and the mighty.

C Not just the kings and the queens.

P Not just the preferred, the pretty, the polished and the perfect.

C “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us!”

P Us!

C And we have seen his glory! Amen.

† SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †

Preface

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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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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

P 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!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

P 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.

Communion Hymns “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.

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386

- 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!

Nunc Dimittis

P 211

**C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

**P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You
that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the
same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one**

another; 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 May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi and the peace of the Christ Child. And may the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forevermore!

C O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Closing Carol “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_incarinate 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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