

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2023

10:00am



AS WE GATHER

What is true Christmas weather? Reading the words of well-known hymns and carols, one might conclude that cold weather and wintry precipitation were being experienced in Bethlehem when Jesus was born, especially considering such titles as “The Snow Lay on the Ground” and “See amid the Winter’s Snow.” While the weather on that first Christmas is certainly up for debate, the fact of the birth itself is not. It is a blessed fact! Hymn writer Edward Caswell exclaims, “Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem!” (*LSB* 373). The songs of praise from the angelic host when our Lord was born are echoed in our hymns and carols. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to be “singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart” (Ephesians 5:19). Whatever the weather may be outside, today is a day for singing to the Lord—with all your heart!

GATHERING HYMN, LSB 379

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. | Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 | Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 60:1; 9:2; 2 Corinthians 4:6

P Arise, shine, for your light has come,

C **and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

P For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”

C **has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us come before our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

C **Almighty God, heavenly Father, we poor sinners plead guilty before You of all sins. We are by nature sinful people. Time and again, we have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered most. We have not honored the name of the Lord Jesus, the newborn King whose birth we celebrate this day, as we should. We have not walked in the brightness of Your light. Our thoughts and desires have been stained by sin. We are sorry for all of these our transgressions, and we ask for Your grace. It is our sincere desire to do better in our lives.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE, LSB 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!



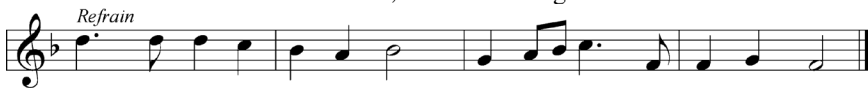
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



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!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. | Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47 | Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God who has given us grace at this time to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the light of the world, we thank You for the countless blessings that He has brought to us and to our world. We ask that our worship bring joy to You and that Your life-giving light be shown forth through us; this we ask through Jesus Christ, the newborn Babe and our eternal King and Lord.

C **Amen.**

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 READING, Hebrews 1:1–6

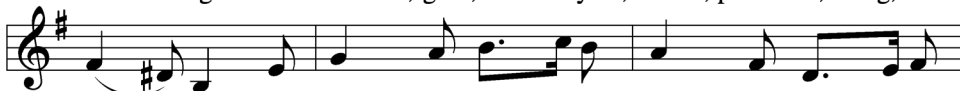
¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and 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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For 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"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 | Tune: English, 16th cent. | Text and tune: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL, John 1:1–18

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

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not

receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Dan Bodin

SERMON HYMN, LSB 384

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 △ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77
Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V | Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

“Your Light Has Come

Pastor Dan Bodin

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.

OFFERING

This is a time that we, as a church family return a portion of the financial blessings God has given us. If you are our guests today, please do not feel obligated to participate. We have many ways to give your tithe or offering. You may place your offering in the plate when it is passed, mail it to the church, text to give by texting 84321 with any dollar amount (be sure to select “South Shore”), give online at sstwbl.org/give, or use the Church Center App from your smartphone (available for both Android and iOS). Disciples of Jesus at SST, please fill out an ivory SST Registration card and place in the offering plate.

Guests: If you would like more information regarding South Shore Trinity, please fill out a blue Guest Registration card before and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher before leaving.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all people according to their needs, confidently bringing our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our light and our salvation.

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, O Lord God Almighty, that when darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, You provided a Savior, able to help, and strong to deliver.

C Praise to You, O God!

P Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, that You gave Your eternal Son to become incarnate, that through Him light and pardon, power and peace, life and eternal salvation, might come to the fallen and lost children of men.

C Praise to You, O God!

P Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be unto You, that by the holy nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ we, who by sin were driven out of the earthly paradise, are begotten again to a new Kingdom and to an endless paradise in heaven.

C Praise to You, O God!

P God of all mercy, let it please You to add grace to grace; and as You have given Your Son to be our Redeemer, pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit, that with pure hearts we may celebrate His birth, and with joyful devotion welcome Him. Grant we ask You, O Lord, that the good tidings of great joy in which we rejoice this day may everywhere be known. Bless the Church throughout the world that it may faithfully prosper in all things. Guide the rulers of nations that pathways of peace may be found. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer!

P Grant the needs of all people be met according to Your good and gracious will. Grant that the ill and those burdened by many cares find respite from their challenges. Grant that those who sorrow this day look up to Your throne and find abundant consolation in Him who came to ransom us from every fear and every foe. Send the joy of Your salvation into all penitent and burdened souls, that they may rejoice and give glory to God that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer!

P Help, defend, and keep us all, through Him who was born at Bethlehem, so that when He comes in glorious majesty to complete our redemption we may have our perfect fulfillment and joy in His eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose blessed name we make all of our prayers.

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, 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 p. 161



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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, Lord God Almighty, for You have sent Your Son, Jesus, to bring the fullness of divine light to shine on us with all of its beauty and grace. We bless You for the joy of this day and for the blessed fellowship we share at Your Table of grace where we receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Grant that we walk in Your light at all times as we journey on this earth, to which our Savior was willing to come, until we rejoice in the light eternal of Your heavenly kingdom.
- C **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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- P So, hear us as we pray in Your Son's name and in the words He has taught us:
- 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 p. 163

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 359 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

LSB 332 "Savior of the Nations Come"


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.


SENDING HYMN, LSB 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.

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt. | Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual | Text and tune: Public domain

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Serving Today

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bob Gehrke

Associate Pastor, Rev. Dan Bodin

Anna Altar: Jennifer Carlson and Sally Ackerley

Counters: Annette Chamberlain & Muriel Janneke

Organist/Pianist: Madeline Marshall

Live Stream Tech: Chris Hasselbach

AV Tech: Jayne Kurpius

Ushers: Dennis Lorenzen

Upcoming Services

Saturday, December 30	5:30pm	Worship with Communion
Sunday, December 31	9:00am	Worship with Communion
	5:30pm	New Year's Eve Worship with Communion (No service on January 1)

