

THE CHRIST MASS
ANNO DOMINI MMXXIV
Christmas Day 2024

OPENING HYMN #387

"Joy to the World"

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.

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.

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.

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: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #368 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy day to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

C **Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;**

P through the same 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 52:7-10

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN #393

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;

Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new

Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow:

Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1-6

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN #392 v 1-3

"God Loves Me Dearly"

God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,

God loves me dearly, Loves even me. *Refrain*

*Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.*

I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness;

God's love was working To make me free. *Refrain*

He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,

He sent forth Jesus And set me free. *Refrain*

Text: August Rische, 1819-1906; tr. composite

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN #384

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

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

SERMON

"The Amazing Word"

John 1:1-14

HYMN OF RESPONSE #364

"Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,

And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.

OFFERING

(Please sign the attendance register during the offering. It is in a burgundy folder in your pew. You can help the ushers by tearing the sheet out and leaving it sticking out of the folder after everyone has signed.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(The blood of our Lord is offered in both the common cup and individual cups today. If you prefer the common cup, do not take an individual cup when the tray passes by you.)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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, 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 HYMN #380

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

HYMN OF INVITATION #361 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #621 *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending from the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #389 *"Let All Together Praise Our God"*

Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

Within an earthborn form He hides His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He, No truer friend than He.

He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

△ Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; (sts. 1, 3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text (sts. 1, 3–7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003072

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #358 *"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"*
"From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

"He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.

"These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and
manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth
were made."

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is
blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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.

BENEDICAMUS

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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 ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #363

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

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.

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!

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: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-85