

December 25, 2021

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day



“We Preach Christ Crucified...”

- 1 Corinthians 1:23

LUTHER MEMORIAL
CHURCH & SCHOOL K-8

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Today's Worship

After the intimacy of the angels and shepherds, and the candles and carols of last night, the Evangelist John backs us away and opens our eyes to the cosmic reality of God becoming flesh. The Epistle reminds us that, far greater than His giving His Word through prophets, God has now come to us in the person of Jesus Christ. God's Old Testament people lift up their voices as they wait the prophecies' fulfillment. Therefore, all God's people have reason to burst into singing: they see His salvation in Jesus, the light of the world that has come.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

TLH 76 – A Great and Mighty Wonder

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Dialogue of Praise

P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

C O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

P Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth above the waters, who made the great lights – the sun to rule over the day, the moon and stars to rule over the night

C Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

P But our iniquities have made a separation between us and our God, and our sins have hidden his face from us so that he does not hear. We hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom. We look for salvation, but it is far from us.

C For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities:

- P** The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- C** **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**
- P** Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”
- C** **Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.**
- P** Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- C** **Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!**



*Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Hymn of Praise

LSB 368 – Angels We Have Heard on High



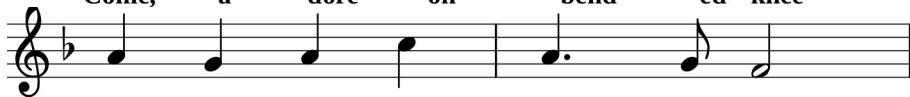
An - gels we have heard on high,
 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee?
 Come to Beth - le - hem and see



Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply,
 What the glad - some tid - ings be
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee



Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Christ the Lord the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray...
... who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How 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.” ⁸ The 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. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The 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.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98

- 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;
- C** let the hills sing for joy together
- P** before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.
- C** He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And 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.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation to the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn

WS 712 – What Child Is This

Sermon Text

Hebrews 1:1-6

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but 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. ³ He 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, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For 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”? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”



Sermon

The Perfect Christmas Gift

Offertory



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -
va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Hymn

WS 710 – Once in Royal David's City

General Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

TLH 94 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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TLH 76 – A Great and Mighty Wonder

1 Tim. 3: 16

Μέγα και παράδοξον Θαῦμα

St. Germanus, 1734

Tr., John M. Neale, 1862, ab.

7. 6. 7. 6. 6. 7. 6.

Es ist ein' Ros'

"Alte geistliche Kirchengesäng"

Cologne, 1599

1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re -
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an -

ho - ly cure: The Vir - gin bears the In - fant With
 mains on high, And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To
 gel - ic bands, Re - joice, ye vales and moun - tains, Ye

vir - gin hon - or pure! Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To
 shep - herds from the sky. Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To
 o - ceans, clap your hands. Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To

God on high be glo - ry And peace on earth to men!"
 God on high be glo - ry And peace on earth to men!"
 God on high be glo - ry And peace on earth to men!" A - men.

4 Since all He comes to ransom,
 By all be He adored,
 The Infant born in Bethl'em,
 The Savior and the Lord.
 Repeat the hymn again:
 "To God on high be glory
 And peace on earth to men!"

5 And idol forms shall perish,
 And error shall decay,
 And Christ shall wield His scepter,
 Our Lord and God for aye.
 Repeat the hymn again:
 "To God on high be glory
 And peace on earth to men!"

WS 712 – What Child Is This

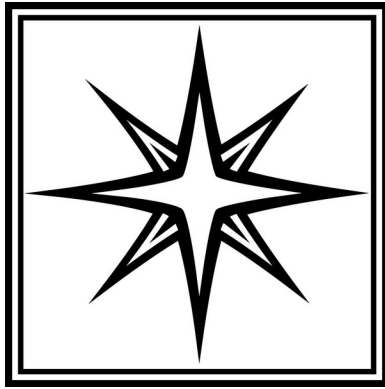
1 What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox - en now are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, 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 He'll bear for me, for you.
 song on high; The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

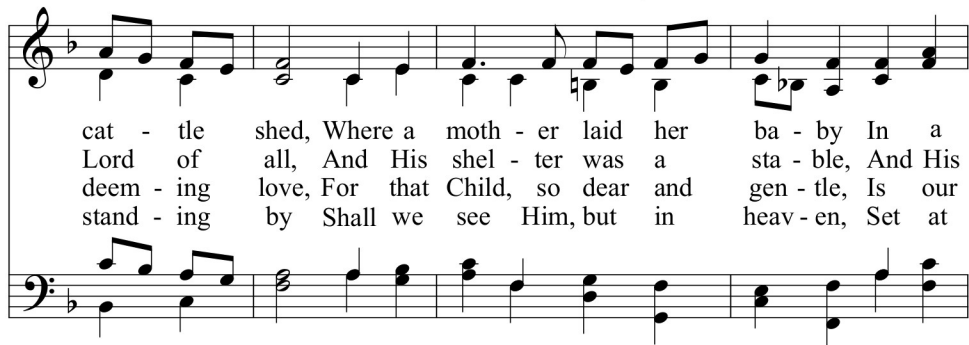
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mar - y!




WS 710 – Once in Royal David's City



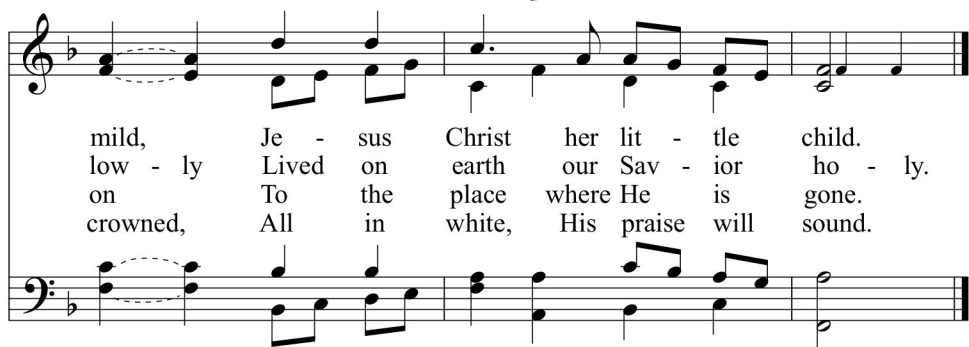
1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en Who is God and
 3 But our eyes at last shall see Him Through His own re -
 4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the ox - en



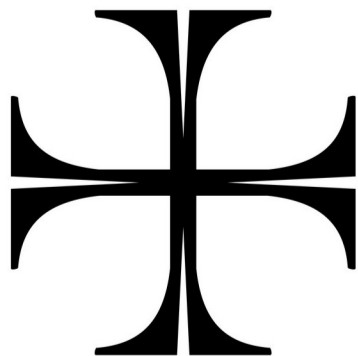
cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a
 Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a sta - ble, And His
 deem - ing love, For that Child, so dear and gen - tle, Is our
 stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in heav - en, Set at



man - ger for His bed; Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; With the poor and mean and
 Lord in heav'n a - bove, And He leads His chil - dren
 God's right hand on high. Then like stars His chil - dren



mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 on To the place where He is gone.
 crowned, All in white, His praise will sound.



TLH 94 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

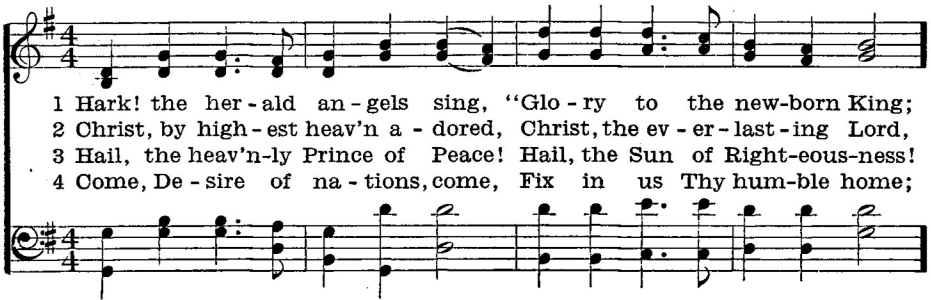
7. 7. 7. 7. D., with Refrain

Luke 2: 14

Charles Wesley, 1739, et al.

Mendelssohn

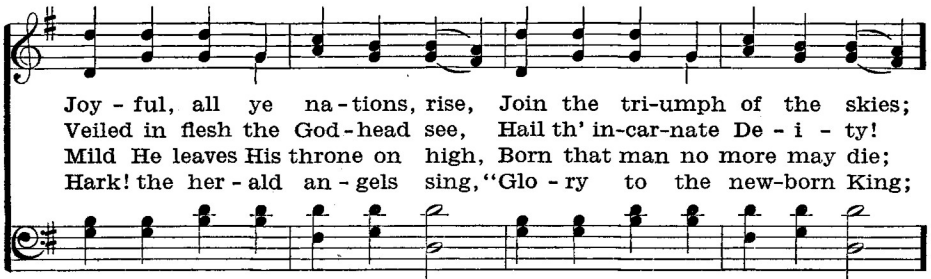
Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, ad.



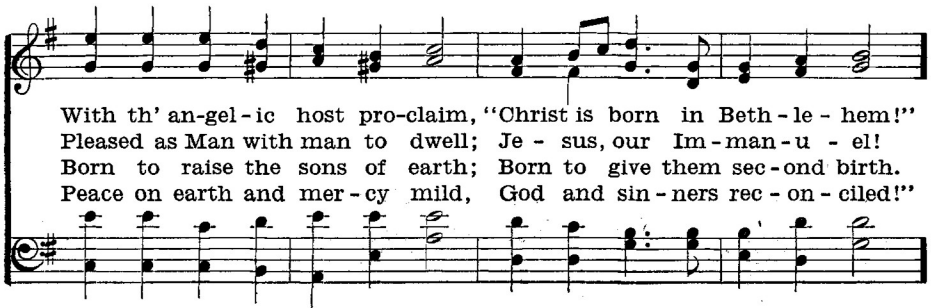
1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King;
2 Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored, Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!
4 Come, De-sire of na-tions, come, Fix in us Thy hum-ble home;



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.
Oh, to all Thy-self im-part, Formed in each be-liev-ing heart!



Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, Join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail th' in-car-nate De-i-ty!
Mild He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die;
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King;



With th' 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-on-d birth.
Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!"



Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!" A-men.

