

**The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, A+D 2022**



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Ringing of the Bells

Solo: Tracy Gribbin

Welcome

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

sts. 1, 4–5

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

P Unto us a Child is born.

C Unto us a Son is given.

P And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

P Grace and peace be yours in full measure through your knowledge of the Father and of His Son come to earth, Jesus Christ, our Lord!

C The peace of the Lord be with you, also.

Exhortation

LSB 203

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 to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

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

Absolution

LSB 203

- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ..
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.
 O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.*Sit***357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***sts. 6–7***Old Testament Reading***Genesis 3:1–15*

A The Old Testament Reading for The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve is from the third chapter of Genesis the First Book of Moses.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
 on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and her offspring;
 he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

387 Joy to the World

sts. 1–3

Second Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

A The Second Reading is from the 7th chapter of the Prophecy of Isaiah.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

388 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

sts. 1–3

Third Reading

Revelation 12:1–6

A The Third Reading is from the 12th chapter of the Revelation of St. John.

¹And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ²She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red

dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

sts. 1–3

Christmas Gospel Part 1

Luke 2:1–7 (KJV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter read in 3 parts.

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

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Children: 364 Away in a Manger

sts. 1

Congregation: 364 Away in a Manger

sts. 2-3

Christmas Gospel Part 2

Luke 2:8–14 (KJV)

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:

and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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!"

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Christmas Gospel Part 3

Luke 2:15–20 (KJV)

¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1–2

Message

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

st. 3

Gathering of Offerings

Musical Offering by Kaylee Krieger

Stand

Prayer of the Church

159

P Almighty God, by the incarnation of Your eternal Son, You revealed that You are love. Give us true faith in Christ and His promise that by His conception, virgin birth, holy life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, our sins are forgiven and we are Yours. Fill us with joy, and lead us to proclaim Your glad tidings to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, by His birth in human flesh, Your dear Son took His place in the family of Mary and Joseph. Bless the families of our church and our country, that men and women would live faithfully as husbands and wives, loving and caring for their children and nurturing them in the grace of Baptism and all the truth of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, Your Son born in Bethlehem is the Son of David and the Lord of David, to whom every knee shall bow. Look upon those You have placed in authority, and grant that they would govern in wisdom and justice. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You love us and sent Your Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Strengthen us to love one another. As You have mercy upon all who are poor and troubled, so perfect Your love in us, that we would gladly be Your instruments of help in time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, in the birth of Your Son, You have visited and redeemed Your people. Continue to visit those who are lonely, sick, recovering or near death. Let Your presence be a comfort to them, and give them perseverance until the time You grant healing, relief, deliverance and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who feeds us in body and soul, give true faith in Your promises to all who will receive Your Son's body

and blood this night. Sustain Your people in humble repentance and godly living. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We thank You, dear Lord, for the saints who received Your blessing of righteousness in Christ and now stand in the most holy place before Your throne. Preserve us by Your grace in the holiness of Christ, that we, too, may dwell in Your light and life for eternity; 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.**

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

P 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence *sts. 1–2*

C 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence *sts. 3–4*

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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.

Sit

Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood

Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.

Silent Prayer Just Before Communing: Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer Just After Communing: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace the forgiveness of sins unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

392 God Loves Me Dearly

370 What Child Is This

Stand

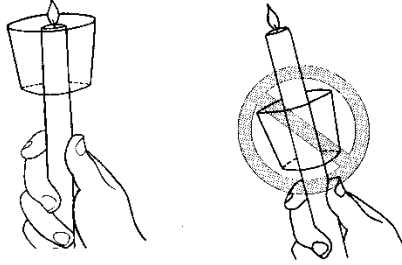
The Communion Dismissal

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

C **Amen.**

The Candlelight Ceremony



Responsive Reading

- P** As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, seen in the Child lying in the manger at Bethlehem, on the face of the Savior suffering our death in the cross, and soon to be revealed again when He comes from His throne on high to be the Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice on this night for the light of the world has come, the light who transforms us to shine with the brightness of His glory.
- C** **With unveiled faces we reflect the Lord's glory and are being transformed into His likeness, with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord.**
- P** You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead they set the lamp on its stand, set up high, so that it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in the world, that people may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

LSB 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 your holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C **Amen. Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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