

**The Nativity of Our Lord  
Christmas Day  
Anno Domini 2022**

Confession and Absolution

**Hymn of Invocation**

*LSB 368*

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

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

- 3 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 Text: Public domain

*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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

**Exhortation**

*LSB 184*

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins  
unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to  
grant us forgiveness.  
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
C **who made heaven and earth.**  
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Kneel/Stand*

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

**Confession of Sins**

*LSB 184*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**Absolution**

*LSB 185*

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.**

*Stand*

**Introit**

*Psalm 2*

<sup>1</sup>Why do the | nations rage\*

and the peoples | plot in vain?

<sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves,

and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,\*

against the LORD and against his anointed, | saying,

<sup>3</sup>“Let us burst their | bonds apart\*

and cast away their | cords from us.”

<sup>4</sup>He who sits in the | heavens laughs;\*

the Lord holds them in de- | rision.

<sup>5</sup>Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,\*

and terrify them in his fury, | saying,

<sup>6</sup>“As for me, I have | set my King\*

on Zion, my | holy hill.”

<sup>7</sup>I will tell of | the decree:\*

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;

today I have be- | gotten you.

<sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,\*

and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.

<sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a | rod of iron\*  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's | vessel."

<sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;\*  
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>Serve the | LORD with fear,\*  
and rejoice with | trembling.

<sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly | kindled.\*  
Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Kyrie

*LSB 186*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### Gloria in Excelsis

*LSB 187*

**P Glory be to God on high:**

**C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

**O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.**

**Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,**

**art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P The Lord be with you.**

**C And with thy spirit.**

**P Let us pray.**

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.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 52:7–10*

<sup>7</sup>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.”

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual**

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given,\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,\*  
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.  
Sing to the Lord a | new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things!

**Epistle**

*Hebrews 1:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>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”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup>And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel**

*John 1:1–18*

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

**C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>(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.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No 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 be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

**C 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.

*Sit*

### Hymn of the Day

379 LSB

- 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**

Refrain: 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**

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

**Sermon.** Text, The Gospel Reading. Theme, *We Have Become Sons of God*

**Votum**

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds  
in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

*Stand*

**Offertory**

*LSB 192*

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from  
me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free  
spirit. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Offering.**

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church. The Litany**

*p288 LSB*

L O Lord,  
C **have mercy.**  
L O Christ,  
C **have mercy.**  
L O Lord,  
C **have mercy.**  
L O Christ,  
C **hear us.**  
L God the Father in heaven,  
C **have mercy.**  
L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,



- C **have mercy.**  
 L God the Holy Spirit,  
 C **have mercy.**  
 L Be gracious to us.  
 C **Spare us, good Lord.**  
 L Be gracious to us.  
 C **Help us, good Lord.**
- L From all sin, from all error, from all evil;  
 From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;  
 From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;  
 From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
- C **Good Lord, deliver us.**  
 L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;  
 By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;  
 By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
- C **Help us, good Lord.**  
 L In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- C **Help us, good Lord.**  
 L We poor sinners implore You  
 C **to hear us, O Lord.**  
 L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;  
 To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;  
 To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
- C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**  
 L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:
- C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**  
 L To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;  
 To direct and defend our [president/queen/king] and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;  
 To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**L** For all that are ill among us, O Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon your servant(s) among us suffering from illness. Assure them of Your mercy, deliver them from the temptations of the evil one, and give them patience and comfort in this time of illness. If it please You, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope.

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C we implore You to hear us.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C grant us Your peace.**

**L** O Christ,

**C hear us.**

**L** O Lord,

**C have mercy.**

**L** O Christ,

**C have mercy.**

**L** O Lord,

**C have mercy. Amen.**

## Hymn

1 A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant  
With virgin honor pure! **Refrain**

*Refrain:* Proclaim the Savior's birth:  
"To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth!"

- 2 The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky. **Refrain**
- 3 While thus they sing your Monarch,  
Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,  
And oceans, clap your hands. **Refrain**
- 4 Since all He comes to ransom,  
By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Beth'lem,  
The Savior and the Lord. **Refrain**
- 5 All idols then shall perish  
And Satan's lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise His scepter,  
Decreeing endless peace. **Refrain**

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

*LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

### Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly meet, 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 195*

- C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the  
Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 196*

- P 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.**
- C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**The Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 197*

- 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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini**

*LSB 197*

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C Amen.**

**Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

- C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have  
mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have  
mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Distribution Hymn**

374 LSB

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined,  
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!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933 Text: Public domain

LSB 199

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**Amen.**

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**The Dismissal**

*LSB 199*

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

**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 199*

**C** **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving**

*LSB 200*

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** **and His mercy endureth forever.**

**Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**Hymn to Depart**

*387 LSB*

- 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Text: Public domain

### **Salutation**

*LSB 201*

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And with thy spirit.**

### **Benedicamus**

*LSB 202*

A Bless we the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Benediction**

*LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.  
C **Amen, amen, amen.**

### **Acknowledgments**

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