

Christmas Day
December 25, 2023

The Order of Service

The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, and Welcome

The Opening Hymn: 379 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Invocation and Opening Versicles (Psalm 98:1-4;
antiphon: Isaiah 9:6)

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

C: Amen.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; 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: 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!

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
forever. Amen.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the
government shall be upon his shoulder,

C: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

A Hymn of Praise: 368 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

The Prayer of the Day

The Old Testament Lesson:

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.

A Hymn: 376 “Once In Royal David’s City”

The Epistle Lesson:

Hebrews 1:1-12

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.” ⁷Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” ⁸But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of

uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹²like 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 Hymn: "The Huron Carol" (*Written in the Huron language by Jesuit priest Father Jean de Brébeuf in 1643 with the title *Jesous Ahatonhia* ("Jesus, he is born"), and set by him to an old French tune, "Une Jeune Pucelle" ("A Young Maid"), this is considered the first Canadian carol. It is considered a national treasure and has been celebrated on a set of Canadian postage stamps. In re-telling the story of the Nativity, Father de Brébeuf used symbols that could be easily understood within the culture of the Hurons; it is said that the hymn entered the tribe's oral tradition.*)

1. 'Twas in the moon of winter-time
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitche Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wandering hunter heard the hymn:

Refrain:

*"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria."*

2. Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapp'd His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high. *Refrain*

3. O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. *Refrain*

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The Gospel Lesson:

John 1:1-14, 18

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. ... ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Nicene Creed

The Sermon Hymn: 383 "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

The Sermon: Isaiah 61:10, “Robed in Righteousness”

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

The Offering

The Christmas Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

A Hymn: 386 “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

Announcements and Dismissal of Online Worshippers

A Hymn: 374 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

The Confession of Sin & Absolution (p. 290ff. in LSB)

P: I will go to the altar of God,

C: to God my exceeding joy.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ ... May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C: Amen.

P: Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: O almighty God, merciful Father, 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.

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C: Yes.

P: Let it be done for you as you believe.

P: 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 † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Distribution (During the Distribution the worship team will sing, "Without Hesitation.")

Verse 1

You spoke light into existence
Separated sky and sea
Set the stars and worlds in motion
And You gave it all to me

Chorus

What can I say?
How can I thank You?
All of my days
I want to praise You!
Without hesitation You gave Yourself to me,
Without hesitation I fall upon my knees.

Verse 2

You made land and winding rivers
Singing birds in every tree
The whole canvas of creation
And You gave it all to me

Verse 3

A dirty stall and borrowed linen
In a place no babe should be
You left all-surpassing glory
And You gave it all for me

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Benediction

The Closing Hymn: 367 "Angels from the Realm of Glory"

A Statement on Holy Communion

We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual who comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to refrain from attending the Lord's Supper.

Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life;

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.

NOTE: We provide gluten-free communion host and non-alcoholic grape juice. Just let the Pastor and/or the assistants know when you come for Holy Communion.