

Christmas Day Service

CHRIST Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Frelitz*

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Usher Teams *F*

Welcome to worship this Joyous Christmas Morning!



We all desire a Christmas that is full of love. While the ways that we show love to each other, especially in families, are certainly important, God's love is so much more than a sentimental, warm, or fickle kind of love. That's why the heart of Christmas is God's redeeming love—God's rescue plan for a humanity alienated from him despite all claims of reform, goodness, or morality. The human condition of sin separates us from God, and only his action could have solved that problem. The life, death, and resurrection of his Son *has* solved the problem. By trusting what Jesus has done for us, heaven awaits us and we live life this side of heaven in loyal thanks for rescue. God had kept his promise!

OPENING HYMN

36

A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and might - y won - der, A
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And



glo - rious mys - ter - y: A vir - gin bears an
yet re - mains on high, And cher - u - bim sing



in - fant Who veils his de - i - ty.
an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.

Refrain



Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace on earth to men."

STAND

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

M: In the name of the Father,

C: who promised to send a Savior.

M: In the name of the Son,

C: who was born to be our Savior.

M: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

C: who gives us faith to believe in our Savior.

M: Beloved in the LORD, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C: Almighty Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on me, O Lord; have mercy on me according to your great goodness. According to your great mercy, do away with my offenses, wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

36

A Great and Mighty Wonder



3 While thus they sing your mon - arch, Those
 4 Since all he comes to ran - som, By
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And



bright an - gel - ic bands, Re - joice, O vales and
 all be he a - dored, The in - fant born in
 Sa - tan's ly - ing cease, And Christ shall raise his



moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace on earth to men."

M: God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us, and has given his only Son, born to us this day, to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father,

C: who kept his promise and sent my Savior!

M: and of the Son

C: my Savior; he is Christ, the Lord!

M: and of the Holy Spirit

C: whose Word fills me with the peace of forgiveness! Amen.

HYMN:Verse 5 (page 4)

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

The “beautiful feet” of God’s messengers are privileged to bring the good news of redemption, “the salvation of our God.”

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald, who proclaims peace and preaches good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God is king!” ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices. Together they shout for joy, because with both eyes they will see it when the Lord returns to Zion. ⁹Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, because the Lord is comforting his people. He is redeeming Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.



Refrain

The Word be - came flesh and lived a - mong us.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Psalm Tone

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**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.**

Refrain



SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

The writer to the Hebrews describes the Christ-child: God himself made flesh for the purification of sins and the rule of righteousness

1 In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. ²In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. ⁴The Son became as much superior to the 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? And again: I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. ⁶And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said: Let all God's angels worship him. ⁷About the angels he says: He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire. ⁸But about the Son he says: God, your throne is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia.

(Galatians 4:4,5a)

Small Group Ensemble Joyful the News

STAND



GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

From the Word at creation to the light-shining-in-darkness of Isaiah to the preparatory work of John the Baptizer, St. John points to Jesus as the glory of the Lord, full of grace and truth.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. **5** The light is shining 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 an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. **9** The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. **13** They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God. **14** The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth

BE SEATED

FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN

A Savior



WHICH IS
CHRIST
THE LORD

STAND

ATHANASIAN CREED (part 2)

M: It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

C: Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,

fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,

equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;

and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one,

One, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

For just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.

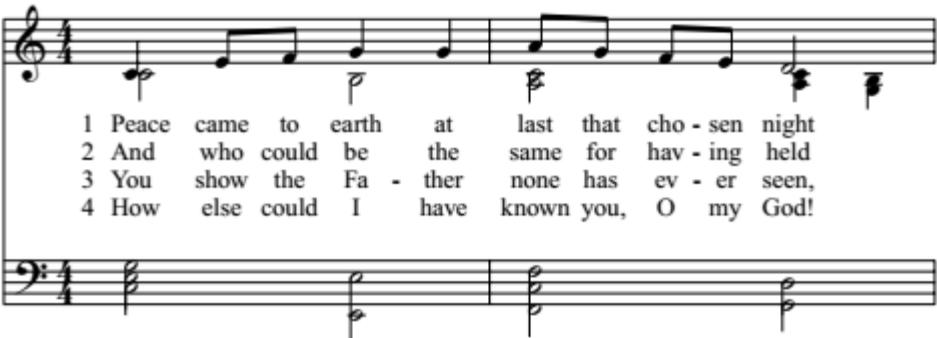
Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

BE SEATED

707

Peace Came to Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And
 The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The
 In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In
 How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might—
 wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—
 bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain—
 else could I em - brace you, O my God!

Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!

Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

The picturesque language of this Jaroslav Vajda hymn vividly illustrates the weighty significance of God becoming man in Christ.

Sermon: Hebrews 1:1-3

HE'S PERFECT!

I. Marvel at who this Baby is

II. Marvel at what this Baby does

HYMN

49 Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn! A Sav - ior
un - to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry.
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels
from on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry.
My soul, Ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless him ev - er For
sal - va - tion. Give him praise and ad - o - ra - tion.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

D: **M:** What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

M: Lord, we pray in your name and as you taught.

N: 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

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.



55

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
 2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
 On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.
 Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, alt.

Glory * * * * *
TO THE NEWBORN
* * * * *
King