

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

## December 18, 2024

### PRESERVICE MUSIC

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Oh Come, All Ye Faithful*  
(Congregation, Stanzas 1-4)

LSB 379

- 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
  
- ref 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

### COLLECT

- L** 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** **Thanks be to God.**

CATECHISM

- I** I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.
- C** **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.**

READING: Luke 2:1–5

**Will:** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to his own town to register.

**Eli:** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

**Tabi & Noah:** *[Joseph and Mary walk down the center aisle to the front of the church]*

HYMN: *Once in Royal David's City*  
*(Elder Youth Choir)*

LSB 376

- 1 Once in royal David's city  
    Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
    In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,  
    Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
    And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,  
    Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
    Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.  
Text: Public domain

READING: Luke 2:6–7

**Will:** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

HYMN: *Away in a Manger*  
(***Sunday School Choir***)

LSB 364

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.  
Text: Public domain

READING: Luke 2:8–14

**Eli:** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. [*Shepherds come forward.*]

**Joanna:** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

*[Angel comes forward. Shepherds act scared!]*

**Joanna:** But the angel said to them,

**Eden:** "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

**Joanna:** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**All Kids:** "Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
(*Instrumental - Flute & Piano*)

READING: Luke 2:15–20

**Cooper:** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

**Alexander:** "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

*[Shepherds stand.]*

**Cooper:** So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

*[Shepherds and animals walk to manger.]*

**Cooper:** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

*[The shepherds move to the aisles, declaring, "Jesus is born!"]*

HYMN: *Savior of the Nations Come*  
(*Elder Youth Choir, stanzas 1-3, Congregation stanzas 4-8*)

LSB 332

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.

[*Shepherds and animals go back.*]

- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.
- 5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father’s Son  
Who in flesh the vict’ry won.  
By Your mighty pow’r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

- △ 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973  
Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain  
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READING: Hebrews 2:17

**Alexander:** “He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me*  
(*Sunday School Choir*)

LSB 588

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but He is strong. Refrain

ref Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! He who died  
Heaven's gates to open wide.  
He has washed away my sin,  
Lets His little child come in. Refrain

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.  
Text: Public domain

CATECHISM

- L** [He] suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.
- C** [He] has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, 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.

READING: 1 John 4:9–10

**Kyler:** “God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Hymn: *God Loves Me Dearly*  
(*Sunday School Choir, Stanzas 1,3,5*)

LSB 392

1 God loves me dearly,  
Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me. Refrain

ref Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.

3 He sent forth Jesus,  
My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus  
And set me free. Refrain

ref Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.

5 Now I will praise You,  
O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise You  
All my life long. Refrain

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite  
Text: Public domain

#### CATECHISM

- L** He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- C** **That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

#### READING: Revelation 7:9-17

**Jake:** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

**Kyler:** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**Alexander:**

“Therefore they are before the throne of God,  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.  
They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.  
For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

HYMN: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* LSB 849  
(**Sunday School Choir -- at Stanza 3, the Elder Youth Choir joins them**)

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,  
Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands  
With the very Bread of peace.
  
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
  
- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,  
Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955  
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MEDITATION: *“The Word and Sacraments in the Manger”*

OFFERING



## PRAYERS

### COLLECT FOR PEACE

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

**L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

### BENEDICAMUS

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### BENEDICTION

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

HYMN: *Joy to the World*  
(Congregation **and Choirs**)

LSB 387

- 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

## POSTLUDE