



A CHILD IS BORN

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

Service Theme

“Dear Theophilus”

Theophilus is a name that means “lover of God.” To a man bearing that name, Luke wrote his Gospel about Jesus. Tonight we listen to Luke describe the event surrounding Jesus’ birth – rejoicing in the great love God showed us in allowing His Son to be born into this world as our Saviour.

354 O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354

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 God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Only-begotten Son of God the Father: (Refrain)

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: (Refrain)

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
(Refrain)

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Text: Public domain

Opening Dialog

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

C: **Amen.**

M: On this day all earth shall ring
With the songs God's children sing
To the Lord, the Christ, our King.

C: **We hear the words that Luke recorded
Of his birth that sacred night.**

M: His the doom, ours the mirth
When he came to dwell on earth.
Now let us view his glorious birth.

**C: We read the words that Luke recorded:
Of a precious, holy sight.**

M: On this day the angels sing.
With their song the earth shall ring
Praising Christ the heavenly King.

**C: We love the words that Luke recorded,
Words of peace and joy and light.**

Devotion ... Luke 2:11

Christmas is about

- 1) Our need for a Saviour fulfilled.
- 2) The LORD making his dwelling among us.

Prayer

As we observe your birth, O Savior, we come with a sincere prayer that you would move our hearts so we may celebrate Christmas in a manner pleasing to you. Help us to rejoice with the Gospel writer Luke as he shared the joy of your birth with his friend Theophilus. Lead us to treasure your Word which shows us our redemption from sin, the pardon for all we have done wrong, and the promise of eternal life offered to all who now worship at your manger. Let the true meaning of your birth never be forgotten with all the many activities of this season, and do not let any cares or worries disturb our Christmas joy. Grant that as we bow at your manger, we may also look forward to your glorious return on that day when you will take us and all believers into the eternal Christmas joys of our heavenly Father's home. May your Holy Spirit grant this.

Amen

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.
- 2 When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place,
when sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and saints with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.
- 3 All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night,
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men
now and forevermore. Amen.”

Text: English, abr.
Text: Public domain

Luke 1:1–4

¹Many have undertaken to compile an account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²an account like those handed down to us by those who were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word from the beginning. ³For this reason, it seemed good to me also, since I followed everything closely from the beginning, to write an orderly account to you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you were taught.

362 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

CW 362 sts. 1–2

- 1 **Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
loudly sing his love amazing,
worthy folk of Christendom.**
- 2 **Christ, from heav'n to us descending
and in love our race befriending,
in our need his help extending,
saved us from the wily foe.**

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

Luke 1:5–25

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶They were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and righteous decrees of the Lord. ⁷They did not have a child because Elizabeth was unable to bear children, and they were both well along in years. ⁸On one occasion, while Zechariah was serving as priest before God and his division was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰The whole crowd of people were praying outside the temple during the hour of the incense offering.

¹¹An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and overcome by fear. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son for you, and you are to name him John.

¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵because he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶He will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and to turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to prepare a people who are ready for the Lord.”

¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this, because I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years?”

¹⁹The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God and was sent to speak to you in order to tell you this good news. ²⁰Now listen, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things happen, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at the proper time.”

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering what was taking him so long in the temple.

²²When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them. Then they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. He kept making signs to them and remained unable to speak.

²³When the days of his priestly service were completed, he went back to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived. She kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, ²⁵“The Lord has done this for me in the days when he looked with favor on me and took away my disgrace among the people.”

344 What Child Is This

CW 344 sts. 1–2

- 1 **What child is this who, laid to rest,
 on Mary’s lap is sleeping,
 whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the King,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the babe, the son of Mary!**

- 2 **Why lies he in such mean estate
 where oxen now are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
 the cross be borne for me, for you;
 hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 the babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Text: Public domain

Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.”

²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus.

³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible for God.”

³⁸Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

328 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

CW 328

(All)

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
“All hail,” said he to meek and lowly Mary,
“most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!**

(Men Only)

- 2 “I come from heav’n to tell the Lord’s decree:
a blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!**

(Women Only)

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said.
“My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!**

(All)

**4 Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!**

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text: Public domain

Luke 1:39–56

³⁹In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She called out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!”

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

Song of Mary (Sung as a Solo)

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.*

*He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise made to our fathers, to Abraham,
and to his children forever. Amen.*

⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

Luke 1:57–80

⁵⁷When the time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they were rejoicing with her. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. They wanted to call him Zechariah after the name of the father. ⁶⁰But his mother answered, “No. He will be called John.”

⁶¹They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” ⁶²They made signs to his father, to see what he wanted to name him.

⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they were all amazed.

⁶⁴Immediately Zechariah's mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came on all who lived around them. In the entire hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶And everyone who heard this took it to heart, saying, “What then will this child be?” Clearly, the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

The Song of Zechariah

(Sung as a Solo)

*Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

⁸⁰The child continued to grow and became strong in spirit. He lived in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

333 O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333 sts. 1–2

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all the earth.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt.

Text: Public domain

Luke 2:1–7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

337 Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337 sts. 1–3, G1

(The hymn will be sung by candlelight.

The first verse will be sung as a solo in German)

- 1 **Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!**
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
 Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh

- 2 **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!

- 3 **Silent night, holy night!**
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Luke 2:8–14

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified!

¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

350 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CW 350

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”** (*Refrain*)

Refrain **Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail th’_incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!** (*Refrain*)

**3 Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Text: Public domain

Luke 2:15–20

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

361 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CW 361 sts. Ref-1, 3

Refrain: **Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. (Refrain)**

**3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessèd Christmas morn. (Refrain)**

Text: John W. Work II, 1873-1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain
Text: Public domain

Prayer

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we are thankful that you fulfilled all of your ancient promises and sent us a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord. Your Son left the glory of heaven and became flesh of our flesh. He became our brother so that through him we might become your children. We marvel at his grace, that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich. We are indeed rich, for we have peace with you and access to your throne in every need.

Dear Saviour, give us a simple, childlike faith that sees your glory even in your lowliness. Help us all to rejoice in your birth. In sincere faith we join the song of the angels, share the delight of the shepherds, and adore you with the Magi. May the truth, love, and redemption that you have brought dwell in our hearts and lives. Like Mary may we keep all these things and ponder them in our hearts. And since you came for all people, help us share the good news of great joy we have in you.

As you have shown us your glory on this holy evening, so one day bring us into your glory in heaven, where we will take our places among the saints and angels. There we will forever praise and glorify you for the grace and mercy you have shown to us poor sinners. Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of your name. Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

- 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.
- 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

Acknowledgments

Evening (Vespers) from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Tu (24) 2:00 pm Christmas Eve in Poltimore
7:00 pm Christmas Eve at Divine Word

We (25) **11:00 am Christmas Day at Divine Word**

Su (29) 10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Fellowship

Th (2) 10:30 am Longfield Manor Devotion

Su (5) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:30 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm **Worship & Communion in Poltimore**



Divine Word
Evangelical Lutheran Church

**1081 Greenbank Rd.,
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8
613-825-1629**

www.divinewordottawa.ca