



Wednesday, December 25, 2024
Christmas Day

Service Theme
GOD GIVES HIMSELF AS ONE OF US

Who is the Baby, lying in the manger? It is God Himself, the divine Son of the heavenly Father, who has come to earth to be our Saviour.

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December,
many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed in his image;
long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in
the sky as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the birth of Abraham,
fifteen centuries from the exodus of the people of Israel
out of Egypt,
one thousand years from the enthronement of David as
king,
in the six hundred and ninety-eighth Olympiad,
in the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the
founding of the city of Rome,
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Augustus,
at a time when the whole world was at peace,
it pleased God to send his only begotten Son and eternal
Word to the world to become man and to teach us
God's love, to suffer, die, and rise from the dead for our
salvation.

Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.
To God Incarnate, to the Infant who humbled himself and
took our form, becoming a child of man to make children
of God;
to the One who later walked among us to teach us the
way of salvation
and who loved us so much as to give his life for it:
to him be glory, honor, and adoration forever and ever.
O come, let us adore him!

354 O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
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, O 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



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



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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

Stand

I rejoiced with those who said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
**We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only
Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer

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

Be seated

357 A Glory Fills the Midnight Sky

CW 357

1 A glo - ry fills the mid - night sky and splen - dors
2 This home - less child to shep - herds shown, an in - fant

blaze a - broad, a her - ald sent from God on high, the
king new - born, has come to make a cross his throne, his

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff continues the melody for the next two lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

an - gel of the Lord; the shep - herds trem - ble
 crown a crown of thorn; the Son of God to
 at his voice and ter - ror - struck are dumb, but
 save us all, to bear our earth - ly pains, this
 at his news let earth re - joice, her prom - ised King has come.
 child with - in the cat - tle - stall as King of glo - ry reigns!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text: © 2012 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723
 Tune: Public domain

Old Testament

Exodus 33:18–23; 34:5–7

To reveal himself to us, God hid himself in human flesh. To reveal himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.

¹⁸Then Moses said, “Please show me your glory.”

¹⁹The LORD said, “I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy.” ²⁰He said, “You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live.”

²¹The LORD also said, “Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. ²²It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

²³Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen.”

⁵The LORD came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

⁶The LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed: “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth,
⁷maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children's children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation.”

98B Joy to the World

Psalm 98B



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.
 Tune: George F. Handel, adapt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Psalm Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the right hand and holy arm that have worked salvation for our God. In love you reached out to this fallen world, and now your salvation extends to the ends of the earth. Inspire us to join all creatures in heaven and on earth in an unending song of praise, for you have done marvelous things!

Amen.

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:31–32

If the Father was willing to give us the gift of his only Son, clearly there is no good thing he would withhold from us.

³¹What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

Verse of the Day

Galatians 4:4,5

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

364 Love Has Come

CW 364



1 Love has come, a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!
name she whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Tune: F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856

Text: © 1996 LNW Hymns, admin. Music Services, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

Tune: Public domain

Gospel

John 1:1-5, 9-14

In Jesus the God whose glory is impossible to see is seen. The God who cannot be known is known.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him.

¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The 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.

344 What Child Is This

CW 344



1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the
 own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Sermon

John 1:1-5, 9-14 *What Child is this?*

352 Joy Has Dawned

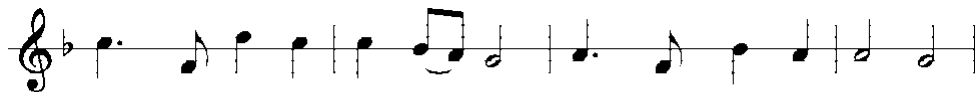
CW 352



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels
3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.
4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;
What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
cling now to a moth - er's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Text and tune: © 2005 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

Stand

Christmas Confession of Faith

Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to

believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

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.

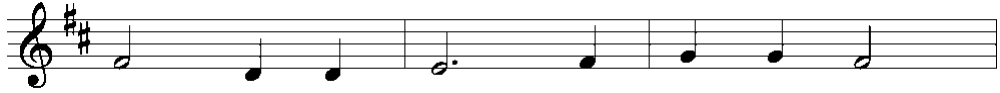
He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

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.

This is the true Christian faith.

342 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is

CW 342 sts. 1-3



1 O Je - sus Christ, your man - ger is
2 He whom the sea and wind o - bey
3 Dear Chris - tian friend, on him de - pend;



my par - a - dise at which I am re - clin - ing.
comes down to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
be of good cheer and let no sor - row move you.



For there, O Lord, we find the Word
Now God's own Son with us is one
For God's own Child in mer - cy mild



made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.
and joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
joins you to him— how great - ly God must love you!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, abr Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723 Tune: Public domain

Christmas Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

Give us faith and courage.

Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas, grant to them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom.

Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.

We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

Govern and prosper your people.

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Christmas Prayer for Renewal

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to take on our humanity and to dwell among us. Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children in Baptism, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

363 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CW 363



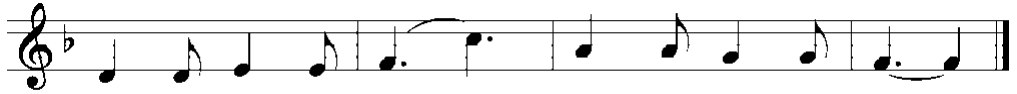
1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; Latin and German, 14th cent.
Tune: German, 14th cent., alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Service of Word and Prayer 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 CALENDAR

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**

“Thank You”

I (Pastor) want to thank all the volunteers who helped make the Christmas season special this year: those who helped prepare and participate in the parade, those who kept our church clean, our walkways cleared, and facilities in good repair, those who used their artistic talents to beautify the sights and sounds of our worship, those involved in our online outreach, those who encouraged, supported, and prayed for our congregation's ministry, and anyone else who contributed to our Christian mission in unseen and unsung ways: I thank God for you and the blessings he has worked through you.



Divine Word
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

www.divinewordottawa.ca