



# CHRIST † THE SAVIOR IS BORN

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Thursday, December 25, 2025  
Christmas Day

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Service Theme  
**CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN**

From eternity, Jesus has been God, holy and majestic. When we look tenderly at the holy infant, we are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, “No one may see me and live.” Yet, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived. How? God became human, hiding his glory within flesh, so that he could come to us without instilling fear or dread. A famous theologian once said, “We are to think of the Lord’s birth, where the Word became flesh, not as a past event which we recall, but as a present reality on which we gaze.” It’s not that Christ the Savior was born. It’s that Christ the Savior is born.

## 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:



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



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

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

**Amen**

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 of the Day

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. **Amen**

### 331 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come CW 331 sts. 7-8, 13-15



7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, and see what  
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, thro' whom the  
13 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child, pre - pare a  
14 My heart for ver - y joy must leap; my lips no  
15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so  
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my  
bed, soft, un - de - filed with - in my heart, made  
more can si - lence keep. I too must sing with  
us his Son has giv'n, while an - gels sing with



# 353 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, 1674-1748. Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, 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

Hebrews 1:1–9

*In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. Now God speaks to us directly through his Son.*

<sup>1</sup>In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. <sup>2</sup>In 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. <sup>3</sup>The 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.

<sup>4</sup>The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For 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.

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

Let all God's angels worship him.

<sup>7</sup>About the angels he says:

He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says:

God, your throne is forever and ever,  
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.  
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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.

## 332 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

CW 332



1 Let us all with glad-some voice praise the God of heav - en,  
2 To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sad - ness,  
3 We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a won - der?  
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, bless us and be near us.



who, to bid our hearts re - joice, his own Son has giv - en.  
that with him in heav'n's fair homes we may reign in glad-ness.  
There-fore praise God ev - er - more here on earth and yon - der.  
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

Text: German, 17th cent; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Tune: Ander Theil Des Dreszdenischen GesangBuchs, Dresden, 1632, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

## Gospel

John 1:1–14

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John.  
<sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**557 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice** CW 557 sts. 1-2, 4-6



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joi-ce, with ex - ul - ta - tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; death brood-ed dark - ly  
4 But God be - held my wretch-ed state be - fore the world's foun -  
5 He spoke to his be - lov - ed Son: "It's time to have com -  
6 The Son o - beyed his Fa - ther's will, was born of vir - gin



spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed heart and voice and ho - ly  
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; in sin my  
da - tion, and, mind - ful of his mer - cies great, he planned for  
pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of my crown, and bring to  
moth - er, and, God's good plea - sure to ful - fill, he came to



rap - ture sing - ing, pro - claim the won - ders God has done, how  
moth - er bore me. Yet deep and deep - er still I fell; life  
my sal - va - tion. A fa - ther's heart he turned to me, sought  
all sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set them free; slay  
be my broth - er. No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; a



his right arm the vic - t'ry won. How dear - ly it has cost him!  
had be - come a liv - ing hell, so firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
my re - demp - tion fer - vent - ly; he gave his dear - est trea - sure.  
bit - ter death for them that they may live with you for - ev - er."  
ser - vant's form like mine he bore to lead the dev - il cap - tive.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt. Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

1 John 4:9–11

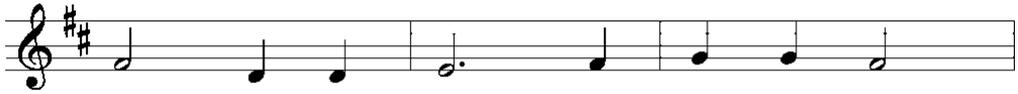
**Theme: Christmas reveals God's love.**

- 1) He sent His Son to save you.
- 2) His Son's love changes you.

<sup>9</sup>This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

# 342 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is

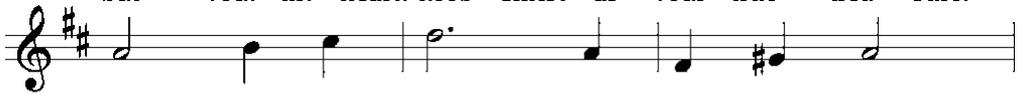
CW 342



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;  
 4 Pon - der a - gain what glo - ry then  
 5 The world may hold her wealth and gold;



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.  
 the Lord will give you for your earth - ly sad - ness.  
 but vou. mv heart. keep Christ as your true trea - sure.



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  
 The an - gel host can nev - er boast  
 To him hold fast un - til at last



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!  
 of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.  
 a crown is yours and hon - or in full mea - sure.

## **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.**

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



## Divine Word Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## Announcements

### **Church Cleaners**

December 28 – John / January 4 - Simon

#### DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Th (25) 11:00 am Christmas Day Service

**Su (28) 10:30 am Worship**

11:30 am Coffee hour

Th (1) 10:30 am Longfields Manor Devotion

**Su (4) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**

**10:30 am Worship with Communion**

11:45 am First Fellowship

**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**

4:00 pm Bible Class (Poltimore)

We (7) 10:30 am Communicating Christ

5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

7:00 pm Communicating Christ

Fr (9) 10:30 am Friday Fellowship

**Su (11) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**

**10:30 am Worship**

11:45 am Coffee Hour

## **Acknowledgments**

Service of Word and Prayer from Christian Worship

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