



Christmas Service

December 24, 2023

Opening Hymn – Oh, Come All Ye Faithful

**Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels.**

Refrain:

**Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, 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]**

P: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession & Absolution: WS p. 12

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him

and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Thanksgiving: WS p. 10

**C: Thank the Lord; sing His praise;
Tell ev'ryone what He has done.**

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name.

**Thank the Lord; sing His praise;
Tell ev'ryone what He has done.**

**Send us with Your promises Lord;
Lead your people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.**

**Thank the Lord; sing His praise;
Tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

P: Let us pray.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

The Scripture Lessons

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2–7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

Kyle: ⁶ *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Psalm 96 (WS p 26)

Antiphon – Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord a new song.

Sing to the Lord, | bless His name;*

Proclaim the good news of His salvation from | day to day.

Declare His glory among the | nations,*

His wonders among all | peoples.

Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of | holiness!*

Tremble before Him, | all the earth.

Antiphon – Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord a new song.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;*

Let the sea roar, and all its | fullness;

Let the field be joyful, and all that | is in it.*

**Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice be- | fore
the Lord.**

For He is coming, for He is coming to | judge the earth.*

He shall judge the world with righteousness,

And the peoples | with His truth.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit,

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Antiphon – Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord a new song.

Second Lesson: Titus 3:4–7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

“From Heaven Above To Earth I Come” (1, 2, 5, 15)

"From heav'n above to earth I come

to bear good news to ev'ry home:

Glad tidings of great joy I bring,

Whereof I now will say and sing:

**² "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.**

**⁵ "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."**

**¹⁵ Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.**

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1–20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

O little town of Bethlehem

**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!**

**³ How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.**

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

A Great and Mighty Wonder

**A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure!**

Refrain:

**Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"**

**² The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems**

To shepherds from the sky. [Refrain]

**⁴ Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord. [Refrain]**

Xeona ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

**Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.**

**³ Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!**

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear

not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.

Azena¹¹ *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

**³ All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.**

**⁴ For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.**

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Kaylee ¹⁴“*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace goodwill towards men!*”

To Shepherds As They Watched...

**To shepherds as they watched by night
Appeared a host of angels bright;
Behold the tender Babe, they said,
In yonder lowly manger laid.**

**² At Bethlehem, in David's town,
As Micah did of old make known;
'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King,
Who doth to all salvation bring.**

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! [Refrain]**

**³ Hail, the heav'n-born 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. [Refrain]**

2nd 1/2 of the Athanasian Creed:

P: Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

C: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

C: He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages;

P: And He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

C: Perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

P: Equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

C: Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

P: One, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

C: one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

P: For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,

C: Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,

P: Ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

C: At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

P: And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

C: This is the universal faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved. Amen.

What Child Is This

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 Christians, fear;
For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through;
The cross He'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

**³ So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings
Salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

Gathering of Offerings

Prayer of the Church

P: Oh, gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: On this festive day, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.

P: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.

P: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.

P: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright**

**Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**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.**

Lord's Prayer & Blessing

Joy To The World

**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.**

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