



Christmas Day

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Day

December 25, 2021

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: Dear God of all glory, through eyewitnesses You have revealed to us Your Son as the Babe of Bethlehem, as the Savior at the cross, and as the King of heaven. Help us, therefore, to praise Him properly on His birthday, to receive Him humbly in His grace, and to look for Him to come again in glory, for His name's sake. Amen.

Theme for Christmas Day: **WHAT CHILD IS THIS? GOD IN THE FLESH.** The Lord had told Moses, "No one may see me and live." If sinners cannot even bear to look upon the glory of God, then they certainly could not hope to live with God in the glory of heaven. So, on that first Christmas, God chose to hide His glory under flesh. What child is this? It is God and man in one person, exactly what the human race needed to deliver it from its enemies of sin, death, and Satan. Christmas Day serves up the deep stuff of Christmas: the miracle and mystery of the incarnation.

The Hymn of the Festival: **CW 341** "Away in a Manger"

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

The Confession of Sins: (CW 11)

C: (to be sung)

**Faithful Father, now before You Do I come with fervent plea.
Though unworthy, I implore You Still be merciful to me.
Let Your face upon me shine When before You I recline;
Let Your acquittal give gladness, And relieve my soul's sadness.**

P: In His wonderful mercy, God promised to send His Son to be our Savior and Substitute. Again, in love God accepted the perfect life and innocent death which Jesus offered on our behalf to atone for our sins. Therefore, on the basis of Christ's work and God's own promise, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

C: (to be sung)

**Praise and thanks and adoration, Son of God, to You we give,
For You chose to serve creation Died that Adam's heirs might live.
Dear Lord Jesus, guide my way; Faithful let me day to day
Follow where Your steps are leading, Find Your love and joy exceeding.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness let praise the Lord!

**C: Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son has given.**

**To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.**

**We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder. (CW 64)**

The Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with you also.

The Collect (CW 42)

P: (to be sung)

Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

C: (to be sung)

**Gracious Child, we pray You, hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join the angelic choir.**

The Old Testament Reading: **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.)

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Now show me Your glory."

¹⁹ And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But," He said, "you cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live."

²¹ Then the LORD said, "There is a place near Me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove My hand and you will see My back; but My face must not be seen."

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed His name, the LORD. ⁶ And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. (NIV 2011)

The Response: (CW 41)

C: (to be sung)

**To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is given,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All power in earth and heaven.
All power in earth and heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored.
The God by all adored.**

The Epistle: **Romans 8:31-32** (*If the Father was willing to give us His only Son, clearly there is no good thing He would withhold from us.*)

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? (NIV 2011)

The Response: (CW 41)

C: (to be sung)

**A wondrous change which He does make!
He takes our flesh and blood,
And He conceals for sinners' sake
His majesty as God.
His majesty as God.**

**He serves that I a lord may be;
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need?
To help me in my need?**

Stand

The Gospel: **John 1:1-14** (*In Jesus the God whose glory is impossible to see is seen. The God who cannot be known is known.*)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. ¹¹ He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ 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. (NIV 2011)

The Response: (CW 41)

C: (to be sung)

**For us He opens wide the door
Of paradise today;
The angel guards the gate no more.
To God our thanks we pay.
To God our thanks we pay.**

The Second Article of the Athanasian Creed (*Confessed in unison*)

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 He will come to judge the living and the dead. At His coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Be Seated

The Sermon Hymn: CW 350 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

The Sermon

The Offertory: (CW 53)

C: (to be sung)

**Create my nature pure within
And make my heart averse to sin;
Let Your good Spirit not depart,
Nor hide Your presence from my heart.**

**I cannot live without Your Light,
Cast out and banished from Your sight;
Your holy joys, my God, restore
And guard me that I fall no more.**

(continued....)

**Oh, may Your love inspire my tongue!
Salvation shall be all my song;
And all my powers shall join to bless
The Lord, my strength and righteousness.**

The Offering

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Wonderful Counselor, You govern all things with wisdom, righteousness, and truth. Grant to Your creation the joy of Your presence, that we may see You at work in our midst. Guide the nations of the earth to Your Son, that all would know Your salvation. Wherever the good news of great joy is announced this day, grant that lives are changed forever by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

P: Mighty God, Your power knows no limits. You reign over all things and yet, in Christ, You stoop down to save us. Give to us, Your Church, the power to declare Your mighty deeds throughout the world. Inspire us to fulfill our earthly callings so that, through our lives of joyful service, all would know of Your grace and mercy. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

P: Everlasting Father, You embrace us and make us Your children through faith in Your only-begotten Son. Bless all those who, in any form of sickness or infirmity, need Your tender care. Heal the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and grant Your saving power to all who rest in You. This day we especially pray for all those who have lost loved ones and property due to severe weather, that despite these circumstances, they may still rejoice in the message of Christ coming into this world for them. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

P: Prince of Peace, You give to us what the world can never give. Drive out all fears and doubts. Deliver us from all enemies, seen and unseen. Grant us solace in Him whose blood has set us free that we would be Your people forever. Open our ears to the message of the angels: "Fear not! For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!" Let us pray to the Lord:

C: We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

P: Fearing, loving, and trusting in You above all things, we entrust all of these prayers to Your mercy, O Lord, for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

The Benediction (CW 55)

P: The Lord bless and keep you,
And look with love upon you,
Be gracious, and cause His face to shine with peace!

**C: All glory to Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit!
The Savior close beside us, God's love from harm to hide us,
The Spirit's power to guide us, Evermore!**

The Closing Hymn: **CW 339** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Announcements