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December 25, 2025

Christmas Day



Opening Hymn: 387 Joy to the World

LSB 387

CHRISTMAS INVOCATION

- P** Unto us a Child is born, Hallelujah!
- C** **Unto us a Son is given, Hallelujah!**
- P** The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
- C** **And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.** (John 1:14)
- P** Oh, come, let us worship Him, Christ, the Lord:
- C** **Let us kneel before our Savior in the manger. Hallelujah!**
- P** Let us now celebrate His birth.
- C** **And tell of His coming to the ends of the earth.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Dear Heavenly Father, having come into Your presence, we are moved to confess our sins to You:
- C** **O most merciful God, we confess to You all of our sins.
We have sinned against You by what we have thought, said, and done.
Yet You have given Your only begotten Son to die for us.
Have mercy on us we pray, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of Your Holy Spirit cause us to know Your holy will and to obey it willingly, and in the end, by Your grace, through faith, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- P** Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us. In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate today. Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

380 LSB "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



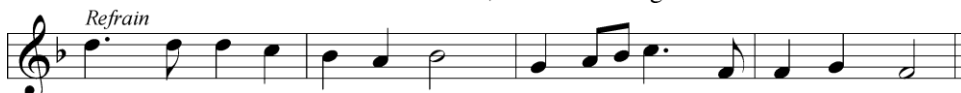
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47
Text and tune: Public domain

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in human flesh may set us free from the sin that held us in bondage. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Luke 2:1-20 (NKJV) - *The Christmas Account*

(with verses from various Christmas hymns)

Pastor: And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Men: Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

361 v. 1 LSB "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

Women: So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Pastor: Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said unto them,

Teens and Younger: “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you:
You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

361 v. 2 LSB “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

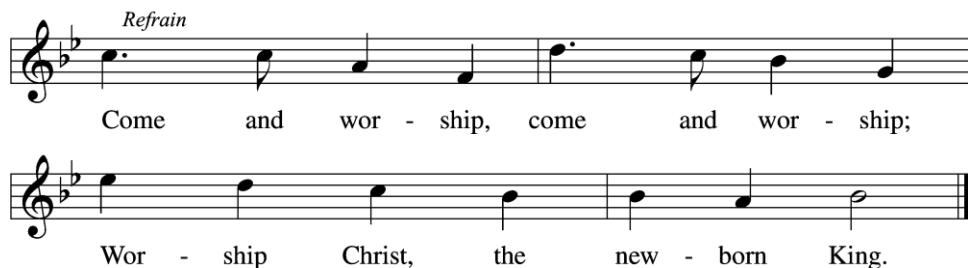
Pastor: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

ALL: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

367 v. 1 LSB “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.

→



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79 Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another,

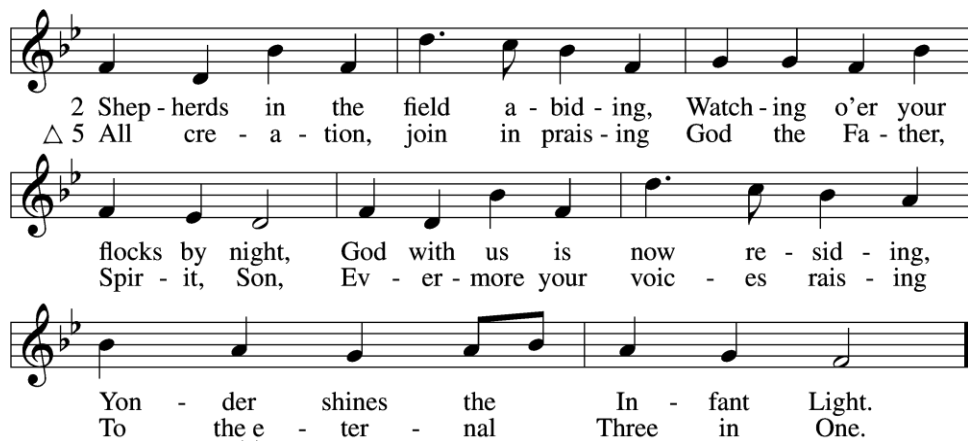
Men: “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

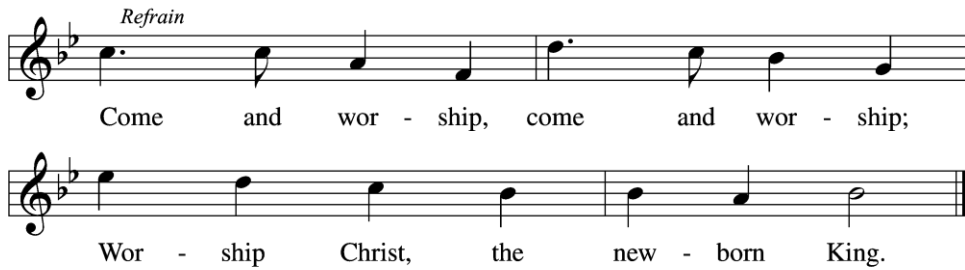
Pastor: And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Women: But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

ALL: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

367 v. 2, 5 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”





Text (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.; (sts. ref, 2): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79 Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION OF FAITH

“The Christmas Creed”

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
Who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Announced by the Angels,
Worshiped by the shepherds,
Adored by the Wise Men,
Who lived to suffer, die, and rise again,
To free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
Who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas,
And by whose continuous work in my heart,
I am ever led to show Christ my love and live under Him as my King,
Both now and forevermore. Amen.**

Hymn: "What Child is This"

LSB 370, Adapted

**♪ 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!**

**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!**

**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!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 Text: Public domain

THE SERMON

Matthew 1:18-25 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God

with us." ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Sermon Theme: "The Gifts of Christmas" – JESUS

- † If you were to give "God" as a Christmas gift, what do you think that gift would look like?
- † When God was given to mankind as a gift was it in the way you would expect?
- † What was the purpose God sent us His greatest gift to us in giving us JESUS?
(v. 21)
- † Why is JESUS the greatest of all **"The Gifts of Christmas"** that we've considered this Advent season?

Offertory

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

Choir Song: "Love Came Down at Christmas"

Love came down at Christmas, at the holy Savior's birth.
In Bethlehem on Christmas morning, love came down to earth.
Love came down at Christmas, in a manger filled with hay.
In Bethlehem on Christmas morning, love came down to stay.
Heavens glowing, cattle lowing, shepherds knowing, love is born.
Love came down at Christmas; angels gave the sign.
Love came to earth at Christmas, love amazing, love divine.

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Angels singing, praises bringing, carols ringing, Christ is born!
Love came down at Christmas, at the holy Savior's birth,
Love came down at Christmas, bringing hope and peace on earth.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

- P** Lord Jesus, You left Your home in heaven to join us here on this broken earth. You left the warmth of Your Father's embrace to join us in the cold world. You fill us with awe.
- C** Lord Jesus, accept our offering of praise.
- P** Lord Jesus, we are sinful from birth, but You were born pure and holy. Born of a virgin, You chose to rest in a bed of hay. We praise You for Your perfection, and we thank You for choosing to rescue us.
- C** Lord Jesus, accept our offering of praise.

P You came to die for us, to take our guilt, so we can find a home in heaven. Infant King, we confess our sin and rejoice that You have taken it from us. O Jesus, it is good that You have made a home for us in heaven with You.

C Lord Jesus, accept our offering of praise.

P So many don't know what You have done for us. They think their homes are here. Open our mouths to share the wonder of what You did on Christmas. Open our eyes to opportunities, and give us wisdom and courage to speak of Your grace.

C Lord Jesus, accept our offering of praise.

P O Jesus, take these offerings of praise and use them to Your glory. Help us look forward to our heavenly home, as we pray the words You taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(All)

**C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 373 See Amid the Winter Snow (please stand for last verse) *LSB 373*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Blessed & Merry Christmas to You All! – Thank you for all the cards, gifts, treats, and expressions of love and support that you have given to Jewels and me during this Christmas season. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve you and to share the Good News of our Savior with all of you in this ministry! May the Joy of the birth of our Savior Jesus fill your hearts, minds, and lives this Christmas Day and always. Praise be to God for His wonderful gift!

“Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

- Pastor Luke Bernthal

Today – Christmas Day Worship Service – 10:30am

Christmas Day Ushers: Bryon Nelson, Sr., Brian Naumann,
Bryon Nelson, Jr.

Christmas Day Slideshow: Caleb Gerbitz

Church Cleaning: Team #9 (12/20-12/26); Team #10 (12/27-1/2)

This Sunday:
12/28/25

Choir – 8am
Worship – 9am
No Sunday School or Bible Class (Christmas Break)
Sunday School Teachers’ Meeting – 10:15am

ILC Professor Christmas Gifts – One way by which we praise God and express our thanks for the gift of His Son is through our gifts of love to others. With that in mind, we would like to gather a gift for the professors who serve our church body at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire. Monetary gifts may be placed in the box on the hall counter. Make checks out to “Messiah.” The deadline is **Sunday, Dec. 28th.**

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