

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD SON OF MAN AND SON OF GOD

DECEMBER 24, 2022

3:00 & 5:00PM

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## AS WE GATHER

Who is the Son of God? That first Christmas, the baby lying in the manger appeared to be the son of Mary and Joseph. Yet, this infant boy is so much more than meets the eye. He is the Son of God! How do we know? Just listen to God's Word in the proclamation of the angels: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Or hear the words of John 1: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). This Christmas, through faith, you also are more than what meets the eye. You are a child of God! How do you know? God's Word connected to water declares it because you are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Celebrate this Christmas that "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

3:00 PRE-SERVICE BELLS "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

"The First Noel"

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN #393

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

P Put not your trust in princes,

C **in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

P When his breath departs

C **he returns to the earth;**

P on that very day

C **his plans perish.**

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P All those who await His appearance pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Celebrating the arrival of the Son of Man and the Son of God, we implore:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

*As the hymn is sung, the candles of the Advent wreath are lighted, including the Christ candle.*

HYMN #384

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

stanza 1

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P "We also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world". Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4–5). Because of the Savior who is the Word made flesh and who dwelt among us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

HYMN #368 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis De - O. Gloria in excelsis De - O.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?

*Gloria in excelsis De - O. Gloria in excelsis De - O.*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Gloria in excelsis De - O. Gloria in excelsis De - O.*

INTROIT

P When all was still, and it was midnight,

C **Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

P Why do the nations rage

C **and the peoples plot in vain?**

P The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,

C **against the LORD and against His anointed.**

P He who sits in the heavens laughs;

C **the Lord holds them in derision.**

P Then He will speak to them in His wrath,

C **and terrify them in His fury, saying,**

P “As for Me, I have set My King

C **on Zion, My holy hill.”**

All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P When all was still, and it was midnight,

C **Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

3:00 CHOIR “Little Child of Love”

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Father in heaven, you sent forth your Son to be born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us who were under the law. Grant that through faith we might rejoice in our baptismal adoption as your children and our connection to Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

(Be seated)

3:00 BELL SONG “The Rocking Carol”

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Daniel 7:13–14*

The Old Testament Reading is from Daniel, the seventh chapter.

<sup>13</sup>I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. <sup>14</sup>And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Galatians 4:1–7*

The Epistle is from Galatians, the fourth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup>In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

3:00 CHOIR

“All is Well”

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:1–18*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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 in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines 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 a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens 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 know Him. <sup>11</sup>He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about Him, and cried out, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.’ ”) <sup>16</sup>And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, He has made Him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #376 “Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in royal David’s city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood’s pattern, Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav’n above;  
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God’s right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

SERMON

(Rise)

CATECHISM *The Second Article*

P We confess:

**C I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P What does this mean?

**C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.  
This is most certainly true.**

(Be seated)

3:00 BELL SONG DURING OFFERING “Christmas Bell Suite”

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

HYMN #380

“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!”**

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*

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*

(Rise)

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P We come before our Lord in prayer in the name of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, the Son of Man and the Son of God.  
Heavenly Father, we rejoice at the coming of your Son for our salvation. Grant that we might share the Good News of Christ this Christmastime that many others find joy at the coming of your Son to bring them life and salvation. Hear us, for the sake of Jesus,
- C Son of Man and Son of God.**
- P Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who are suffering ills of body or mind even as we celebrate Christ’s birth. According to your will, bless them with healing and joy even in the midst of woe. Hear us, for the sake of Jesus,
- C Son of Man and Son of God.**
- P Heavenly Father, you sent your Son that first Christmas to be the Savior of all nations and of all time. Here, in this time and place, grant that we receive the benefits of His coming through His body and blood given and shed for us as we faithfully receive Him as He comes to us in His Word and Sacraments. Hear us, for the sake of Jesus,
- C Son of Man and Son of God.**
- P We pray these things through Christ Jesus, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,
- C Son of Man and Son of God. Amen.**

#### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*As the Pastor lights his candle from the Christ candle in the middle of the Advent wreath, the usher's come forward. The ushers light their candles from Pastors' candle.*

*They will bring the Light to worshipers at the end of each pew.*

(For the sake of safety, please hold lighted candles upright, dipping **unlit** candles into the flame of a lighted candle. We also ask that **young children not hold their own candle**, but instead hold a candle with one of their parents or use a battery operated candle.)

*(While we light the candles) Reading Luke 2:1-21*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup>And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## HYMN #361

## “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.

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!

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
 Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.  
 We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
 O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

## PRAYER

P This Christmas, we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus.” True Son of Adam,  
**C come, Lord Jesus.**  
 P True Son of Abraham,  
**C come, Lord Jesus.**  
 P True Son of David,  
**C come, Lord Jesus.**  
 P True Son of God,  
**C come, Lord Jesus.**  
 P True Son of Man,  
**C come, Lord Jesus.**  
 P That we might receive adoption as sons,  
**C come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

## HYMN #364

## “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
 The stars in the sky – looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
 Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

## HYMN #370

## “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!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass 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!

## BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
**C Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN #363

## “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.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
 Glories stream from heaven afar,  
 Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

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.

Preacher	Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Russell Hurst, Marc Stefanic
Organist	JoLynn Bender

*Thank you to our Choir and Bell Choir for enhancing our 3:00 worship service.*

# Christ our Savior is Born



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am – 3:30pm