

Be Born In Us Today Bringing Salvation

A Service for Christmas Day

Order of Service

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Psalm 85:7

Hymn ... O Come, All Ye Faithful LSB #379

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels; O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Invocation

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

C Amen.

P Today we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The prophet Zechariah foretold the coming of the promised King, who would bring salvation to his people: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he" (Zechariah 9:9).

C Jesus, you are our righteous King. Through your birth, life, death and resurrection, you have brought to us the gift of salvation.

P The name we love, the name of Jesus, means “God saves” or “salvation.” An angel told Joseph to take Mary as his wife and said, “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

C Jesus our Lord, you came to save us. Hear our prayers and accept our praise as we rejoice today in your birth.

P The apostle Peter, on trial for preaching the good news about Jesus, said, “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

C Jesus, you alone are the way of salvation.

P The apostle Paul wrote about Jesus’ saving work: “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

C So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:8-11).

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, we confess that we do not always live according to your Word and will. We do not walk in love as Jesus did. Even though we have received your gracious gift of salvation, we often hesitate to share the good news of Jesus with others. Forgive our sins and lead us by your Spirit to walk in your ways.

P Today we celebrate the grace of God, revealed in the gift of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. The Holy Child of Bethlehem was born among us to suffer, die and rise to bring us forgiveness of sins and eternal life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C We rejoice in the birth of Jesus our Lord! There is no other name by which we can be saved.

Prayer of the Day

Hymn ... What Child Is This LSB #370

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!

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 12:2-4

Epistle Reading ... 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

Gospel Reading ... John 1:1-14

Sermon Hymn ... Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LSB #380

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!"
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!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Sermon

Hymn of Response ... Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LSB #380

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.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Prayers

P Gracious Lord, on this day of your birth, there are those who are not able to rejoice and celebrate. Watch over all who are sick or suffering through grief and loss. Shield them with your mighty power and bring them comfort and hope through the promises of your Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Lead us in the power of the Holy Spirit to love and serve others in your name.

P Gracious Lord, through your birth, life, death and resurrection, you brought to us the gift of salvation. Through faith in your name, we live as children of light. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Help us to live according to your Word and will. Lead us to encourage and build one another up in faith.

P Gracious Lord, you are the Word made flesh. You came to bring us light and life. Through you we have received grace and truth. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. You sent John to bear witness to you as the Lamb of God. Help us in the power of the Holy Spirit to be bold witnesses to you, so that others will believe in you and receive the gift of salvation through faith in your holy name.

P Gracious Lord, on this day of your birth, hear our prayers and accept our praise.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

(Divine Service I p. 161)

Distribution Hymns: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming LSB #359

By Grace I'm Saved LSB #566

Benediction

P "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

C All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made ...

P And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

C Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-3, 14).

P "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

C Amen.

Closing Hymn ... Now Sing We, Now Rejoice LSB #386

Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild.
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!

Now through his Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us Through sin and vanity
Till he opened for us A bright eternity.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing With all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!