

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CHRISTMAS EVE
SON OF MAN AND SON OF GOD
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).

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (*LSB* 393)



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Text and tune: Polish
Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 146:3–5

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 Sprit 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.**

HYMN

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (*LSB* 384:1)

384 Of the Father’s Love Begotten

st. 1

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see



Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V
Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** “We also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world” (Galatians 4:3). 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

+ WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text

When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.
Why do the | nations rage*
and the peoples | plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against His a- | noointed.
He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.
Then He will speak to them | in His wrath,*
and terrify them in His fury, | saying,
“As for Me, I have | set My King*
on Zion, My | holy hill.”
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.

When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (LSB 368)

368 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.

Text and tune: French

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1John 4:7-16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (LSB 384:2)

2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

Text and tune: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (LSB 359)



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

OFFERING

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. We bring before You especially [*names*]. 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 Supper. 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.

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

The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle and gives it to the acolytes and ushers. They pass the light on to the congregation. The lights are dimmed.

P As the light of these candles illumine our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a Child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the light of the world has come, the light who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night” (LSB 363)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

Text and tune: Public domain

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 T give you peace.

C Amen.

HYMN

“Joy to The World” (LSB 387)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain