

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
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

“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
play, 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



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

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

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.**

As the hymn is sung, the candles of the Advent wreath and/or on the altar are lighted, including the Christ candle.

HYMN

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



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
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

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 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
 and the government shall be upon His | shoulder,
 and His name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.
 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done | marvelous things!*
 His right hand and His holy arm have worked salva- | tion for Him.
 The LORD has made known His sal- | vation;*
 He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
 He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.
 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
 break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!
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.
 For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
 and the government shall be upon His | shoulder,
 and His name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

HYMN

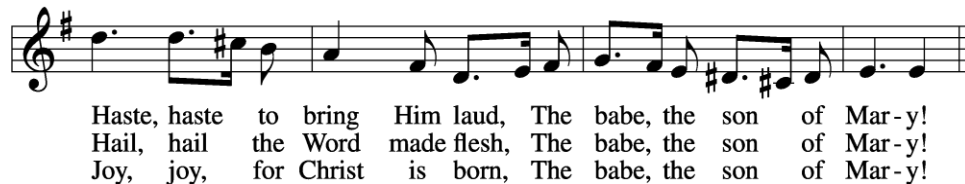
“What Child Is This” (LSB 370)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98

Tune: English, 16th cent.

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.

Dear God, You made that first Christmas night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Daniel 7:13–14

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

¹³I 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.
¹⁴And 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

P The Epistle is from Galatians, the fourth chapter.

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

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 -



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

John 1:1–18

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

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹²But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.’”) ¹⁶And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No 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.**

NICENE CREED

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

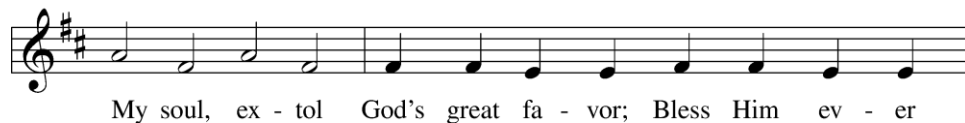
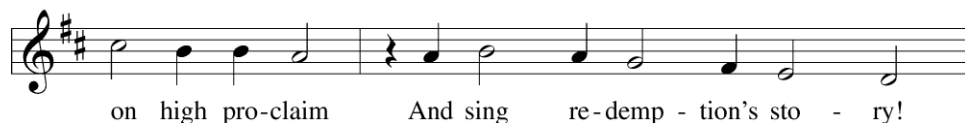
**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from 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

“Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn” (LSB 391)





Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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.

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

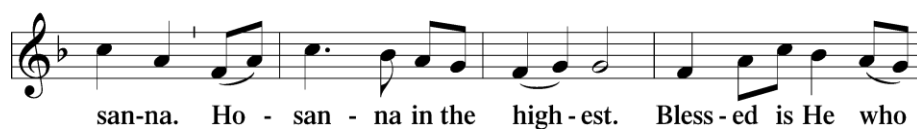
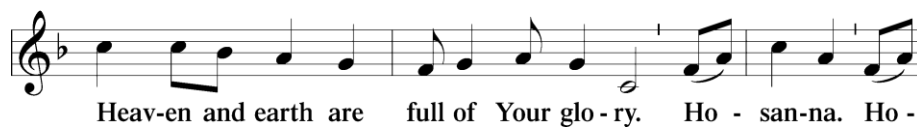
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

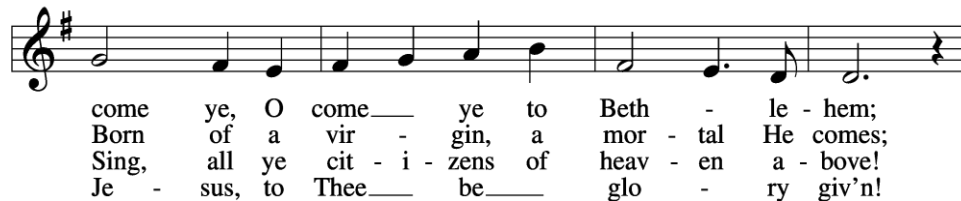
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

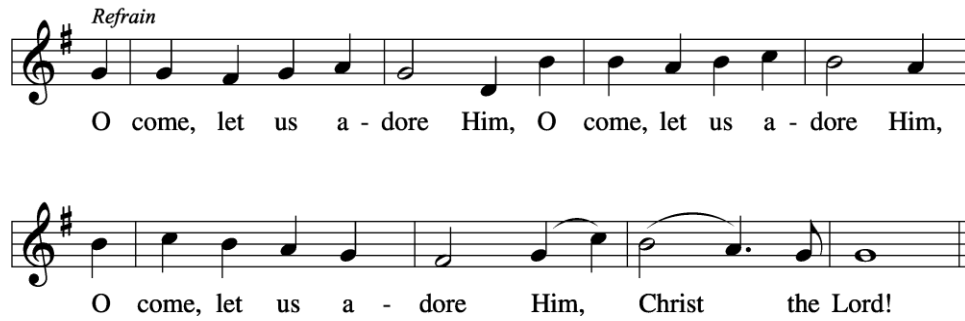
C Amen.

HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379)



Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.
Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Text and tune: Public domain