



**The Festival of the  
Nativity of Our Lord**  
Saturday, December 25, 2021

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
32962 Vickers St. NE Cambridge, MN 55008  
[christcambridge.com](http://christcambridge.com)

**Welcome!** Today the Christian Church sings its praise to God for the mystery of the Word who became flesh, the incarnate God, Jesus Christ. Our Savior Jesus is both true God and true man, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. We celebrate this great mystery, recognizing that Jesus' birth into this world was the first step on the road to the cross, by which he paid for our sins and earned our salvation and redemption.

- ⌘ **Restrooms** are located down the hallway to the right as you exit the sanctuary. There is also a family restroom past the coat rack and through the door (left as you exit the sanctuary).
- ⌘ **We Love** hearing little ones in God's house but if you feel like your child needs a moment there are speakers to hear the service as well as books and toys in the entryway.
- ⌘ **Prayer before worship** With great joy, O Jesus, I come to adore you for the glory of God in heaven which you have now brought down to earth, even to me! Forever be for me the only glory I know, as you are my peace with God now and in eternity. Amen.

**Today's Service:** The order of worship for this service will be displayed on the worship screens in its entirety and, except for the major hymns, printed beginning on the next page of this service folder. Today's service is based on the traditional liturgical order of service commonly used in the Lutheran Church. The major songs and responses of the service have been replaced with Christmas hymns that reflect the thoughts and words of the usual songs in our service.

Today we continue to "reflect" on the truths of Christmas, specifically, on the mystery of Jesus taking on human flesh, the incarnation. As we do, may we grow in our appreciation of our God, the deep love he has for you and me and his desire to clue us into his Word of truth. May God not only bless your worship but your Christmas celebrations as well!

- ⌘ **ONLINE WORSHIP:** If you are worshiping remotely with us today, thank you! We hope you find this tool useful and appreciate any feedback you would like to give. Additionally, we always want you to know you are welcome to join us in person if you are able. Thank you so much for the privilege to share God's word with you in your home and may God grant you a very Merry Christmas in Christ Jesus our Lord!

# A Service of the Word

celebrating

## The Nativity of our Lord

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### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

### SERVICE INTRODUCTION

### OPENING HYMN

**Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**  
*Christian Worship #55*

### GREETING

**Minister:** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Congregation:** **And also with you.**

### DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

**M:** Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**C:** **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.**

**M:** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

**C:** **Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**

**M:** But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

**C:** **For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.**

**M:** The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

**C:** **From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**M:** “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

**C: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**

**M:** Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

**C: Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

[Joy Has Dawned](#)

*Posted on Worship Screens*

*The Gloria in Excelsis (Latin for “Glory [to God] in the highest”) has been the traditional song of praise sung at the beginning of Christian services for centuries. The text of the Gloria may be found on pages 16-17 in Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal. The following hymn quotes the opening words of the Gloria, the same words that the angels first sang on Christmas night.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yolk of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

*To us a child is born*

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,  
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,  
who proclaims salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God is king!”

<sup>8</sup> The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.  
Together they shout for joy,  
because with both eyes they will see it  
when the LORD returns to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,  
because the LORD is comforting his people.  
He is redeeming Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

## HYMN

**See in Yonder Manger Low (v. 1-2)**

*Christian Worship #58*

## SECOND LESSON

**Hebrews 1:1-9**

*God has revealed himself to us through his Son*

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. <sup>2</sup> In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the

universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

<sup>4</sup>The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?

And again:

I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

Let all God's angels worship him.

<sup>7</sup>About the angels he says:

He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says:

God, your throne is forever and ever,

and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy

beyond your companions.

## HYMN

**See in Yonder Manger Low (v. 3-4)**

*Christian Worship #58*

## GOSPEL

**John 1:1-18**

*The Word became flesh and lived among us*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light is shining 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 an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. <sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on 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 recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.'" <sup>16</sup>For out of 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-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

*Please be seated.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**What Child Is This?**

*Christian Worship #67*

**SERMON: John 1:1-18**  
**Reflect on the Mystery of the Incarnation**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed**

**It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.**

**Now this is the true Christian faith.**

**We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.**

**He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh.**

**equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity; and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons, but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.**

**He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**This is the true Christian faith.**

**Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.**

**OFFERING**

*If you would like to give an offering this morning, please note no plate will be passed around. Please place it in the offering plate on the stand at the entrance to the Sanctuary on your way out. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry. The members of this congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

**M:** What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

**C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

**M:** In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

**C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

**C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **BLESSING**

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

#### **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**Let Us All with Gladsome Voice**  
*Christian Worship #64*

***A Blessed Christmas to you all!***

*Those who purchased a poinsettia plant for our Christmas services may take the plants you purchased home with you after this morning's service.*

*We invite you to return Sunday morning, December 26, as our Christmas celebration continues. Our service will begin at 9:00 a.m. May God grant you and yours a very Merry Christmas!*