

**The Nativity of Our Lord  
December 25, 2022  
10:30 a.m.**

---

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image;

**long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;**

twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;

**thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom;**

eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

**one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;**

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

**the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;**

the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

**while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,**

Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—

**now in our own time is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh. Christ is born! Glory be to God!**

**GATHERING SONG**

*“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”*

#270

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**
2. **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, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**
3. **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 we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together. Almighty God,

**you gave us your only son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD****CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****FIRST READING**

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 98**

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication 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 victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy**

at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and

he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

#275

1. **Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
2. **Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
3. **Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
4. **All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son;  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**GOSPEL**

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Love Has Come”*

#292

1. **Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises;  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
 Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
 See the glow in the eyes of his mother  
 What is the name her heart is saying?  
 Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
 Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
3. Love has come and never will leave us!  
 Love is life everlasting and free.  
 Love is Jesus within and around us  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
 Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
 Love! Love! Praise to you, God most high!

### **NICENE CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven,  
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
 and became truly human.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*Petitions conclude:* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****MEAL****OFFERING SONG**

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

#294

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. Heaven cannot hold him, nor...earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord...God almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. What...can I give him, poor..as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together. God of abundance,

**receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** *spoken*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION****COMMUNION HYMN**

*"What Child Is This"*

#296

1. **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!**
2. **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!**
3. **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!**

**TABLE BLESSING**

*At the conclusion: Amen.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*At the conclusion: Amen.*

**SENDING****BENEDICTION**

*At the conclusion: Amen.*

**SENDING SONG**

*"The Bells of Christmas" (v.1-4)*

#298

1. **The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door.  
He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.**
2. **This world, though wide and far outspread, could scarcely find for you a bed.  
Your cradle was a manger stall, no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.**
3. **Now let us go with quiet mind, the swaddled babe with shepherds find,  
To gaze on him who gladdens them, the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.**
4. **Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king  
until our son, from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!**

**DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**