

# The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2020

**Faith Lutheran Church**

**Online**

**Georgetown, TX 78628**

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flcms.org

*(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)*

## **PRELUDE**

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Lutheran Service Book, #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!

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## **INVOCATION:**

*Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**People: Amen.**

## **INVOCATION:** (Isaiah 9:6; Galatians 4:4-5; 1 Peter 1:18-19; John 1:29)

*Pastor: Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given!*

**People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.**

*Pastor:* When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law

**People:** to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

*Pastor:* You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

**People:** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

*Pastor:* Look, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!

**People:** Oh, come, let us worship Him.

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:** (drawn from Galatians 4 and 1 John)

*Pastor:* Beloved in the Lord! We are sinners, undeserving of the holy Gift given us this day.

**People:** What you say is right. We have broken God's righteous law in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We deserve from God neither mercy nor favor; our sinfulness should discredit us in His sight and disqualify us for heaven.

*Pastor:* Do not be afraid, my friends. God is rich in grace. His favor rests on you, for in the fullness of time He sent forth His Son, born in human flesh, to shed for us the blood that alone would secure our redemption, remove from us all guilt, and open heaven to us. Christ bore sin for us, suffered in full its condemnation, paid in full its wage of death, then rose victorious over it.

**People:** We are rescued from death by the death of Christ! His blood covers us and purifies us from sin.

*Pastor:* God in Christ has given you new and eternal life. For Jesus' sake He welcomes you into His kingdom. Jesus' manger is the Christian's hope, His cross the Christian's glory, and His crown the Christian's joy. These gifts are yours! They seal your salvation. As a called and ordained minister of this gospel and with the authority the risen and soon returning Lord has bestowed on His Church I declare to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit that your sin is forgiven; peace with God is yours in Christ!

**People:** Amen.

### **SALUTATION and COLLECT for CHRISTMAS DAY:**

*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Pastor: Let us pray.*

**People: Almighty God, by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son You gladden our hearts and lift our spirits. Grant that we who today joyfully welcome Jesus as our Redeemer may winsomely introduce others to Him as Savior and greet Him fearlessly when He comes to be our Judge; through Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHRISTMAS PSALM:** *Psalm 98:1-4 (read responsively)*

*Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!*

**People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

*Pastor: The LORD has made known His salvation;*

**People: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

*Pastor: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*

**People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

*Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;*

**People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

*Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,*

**People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**HYMN:** "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (Lutheran Service Book, #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!

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**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:** *Isaiah 62:10–12*

Go through, go through the gates;  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway;  
clear it of stones;  
lift up a signal over the peoples.  
Behold, the Lord has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:  
Say to the daughter of Zion,  
“Behold, your salvation comes;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.”  
And they shall be called The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the Lord;  
and you shall be called Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.

**EPISTLE READING:** *Titus 3:4–7*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS:** (spoken in unison)

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia!***

*(Colossians 3:15)*

| *Lector: Please rise, as you are able.*

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

**People: Glory to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL READING:** *Luke 2:15–20*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

**People: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Apostles' Creed*

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** The Apostles' Creed

**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!**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at [www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons](http://www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons).

**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!" **Refrain**

### **REFRAIN**

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\_incarinate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! **Refrain**  
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. Refrain

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**SERMON:** "God Appeared" (*Titus 3:4–7*)

**OFFERTORY:**

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at [www.flcms.org/index.php/give](http://www.flcms.org/index.php/give).

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (Polish Carol)  
"Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" (Appalachian Carol)  
Arrg. by Albin C. Whitworth

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Pastor: On this festal day as we celebrate the incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, let us now lift up holy hands in prayer for the Church and the world.*

*[[ Brief silence. ]]*

**Following each petition:**

*Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**Following the final petition:**

*Pastor: Joining in heaven's eternal praise for the revelation of Your love in Your Word made flesh, we boldly lay all our petitions before You, dear Father, trusting that You will hear us for His sake, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**People: Amen.**

***The Celebration of the Lord's Supper***

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Pastor: Lift up your hearts.*

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Pastor: 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 singing:*

**People: Rejoice, rejoice, this happy morn.  
A Savior unto us is born,  
The Christ, the Lord of Glory.  
His lowly birth in Bethlehem,  
To all the world we now proclaim  
And sing redemption's story.  
My soul, extol God's great favor,  
Bless Him ever for salvation,  
Give Him praise and adoration! Amen.**

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### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My 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 covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST:**

*Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**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 HYMNS:**

**HYMN:** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (LSB, #621)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light, descending  
From the realms of endless day,  
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish  
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:

"Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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## **CLOSING PRAYERS**

*Pastor: Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!*

**People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!**

*Pastor: O God the Father, the Glory of Christmas lies in a manger. You made Your Son to be like us - weak, small, and subject to death - so that we may live with Him and forever enjoy the bliss of heaven. You humbled Jesus and honored us; You exiled Him and exalted us; You abandoned Him and adopted us. The miracle of Your grace confounds us even as it delights us.*

**People: We marvel at Your love and sing to You a hymn of praise.**

*Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Savior and Brother, You took our guilt into Yourself and exchanged it for Your innocence when You allowed Yourself to be crucified in our place and executed for our transgressions. By the power and grace of God, and according to His eternal will, Your manger became a cross that emptied into a tomb that opened to eternal life for us and all believers.*

**People: We marvel at Your love and sing to You a hymn of praise.**

*Pastor: Holy Spirit, Bearer of Light and Giver of Life, by the preaching of the gospel You call sinners to faith in Christ and inspire us to serve one another in His name. You reside in the hearts of all Jesus' disciples and fill them with grateful joy. Use us as You will for the blessing of others, and, by the Christmas miracle, make Your will our delight.*

**People: We marvel at Your love and sing to You a hymn of praise.**

*Pastor: Great Trinity beyond comprehension:*

**People: accept our joyful worship and graciously grant that all on earth who today celebrate the birth of Christ may rejoice forever with Him in heaven; for You live and reign, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

**All sing:**

**My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradle song:**

**Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.**

**BENEDICTION:** (Numbers 6:24-26)

*Pastor:* 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.

**People:** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:** “Let All Together Praise Our God” (LSB, #389 sts. 1, 2, 4, 7)

Let all together praise our God  
Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav’n again  
To give us His own Son,  
To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne,  
Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.

He undertakes a great exchange,  
Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us His realm,  
His glory, and His name,  
His glory, and His name.

Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

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**DISMISSAL:**

Please be seated  
and kindly wait for an usher to dismiss your row.

+ † +

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**In Christian Service:**

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

*with*

Proclaimer – Rev. Walt Pohland

Liturgist – Rev. Bill Crowe

Musicians:

Organist – Phyllis Draheim

Flute - Lila Aud

Lay Reader:

John Cotner