



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

If you are worshipping inside, please choose chairs that work for the number of people in your family.

If you are worshipping outside, you're welcome to sit wherever you are comfortable inside or outside of your car. Tune your vehicle radio to 96.5 FM to hear the service.

Christmas Day Worship

December 25th, 2021

Invocation and Opening Sentences

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord. Alleluia.

C **The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.**

P This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

C **Alleluia! Oh come, let us sing to the Lord. Let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our maker! Alleluia!**

During the invocation the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

1 **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: *Refrain***

ref *O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

2 **Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

3 **Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: *Refrain***

- 4** **Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

Stand

Confession and Absolution

- P** We confess that we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
- C** **We have followed the desires of our own heart.**
- P** We have left undone things we ought to have done.
- C** **We have done things we ought not to have done.**
- P** Spare us, O God, and restore us according to your promises declared in your newborn son, Jesus Christ.
- C** **We see in the manger the Savior of the world; the Savior who brings God's forgiveness.**

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

- P** Light has come into the world. We admit that we seek darkness and sin instead of light and love. But Jesus is the Son of our loving God, and he takes away the sin of the world. Jesus has come to save you from darkness, sin and death. Hear the promise of Christ, "I have come into the world to be a light. No one who believes in me will stay in darkness." (*John 12:46*) He is talking about you. Because of Jesus, your sin is forgiven, and you will live as God's holy child forever. Let us praise God for his love and for the gift of Jesus!
- C** **O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Sharing of the Peace

- P** The peace of the Christ child be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** We share Christ's peace with one another.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Christmas Prayer

- P** O God, you we thank you for the gift we celebrate each year – the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. Give us joy in his redemption and confidence in his judgment and forgiveness. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father"¹?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

**1 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***

*ref 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 the_incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain***

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Homily

Stand

Creedal Hymn

tune of LSB 365

- 1 In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.
- 2 In Jesus the Savior our hope is secured;
True God and true man once the cross he endured
To grant our lives wholeness; forgiveness of sin,
With hearts freed from guilt we know true peace within.
- 3 God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess
With power and truth the Church now he does bless.
As Saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever! Amen!

Sit

Prayers of the Church

- P** We adore, thank, and praise you, Lord God, because when darkness covered the Earth and when darkness held our human hearts, you provided a Savior to deliver us into the light.
- C** **We adore, thank, and praise you, Lord God, because you gave your eternal Son to take on flesh. Through him bring light and pardon, power and peace, life and eternal salvation to your creation and to lost and fallen humankind.**
- P** We adore, thank and praise you, that by the birth of our Lord Jesus we, who lost paradise, are born again to a new kingdom and an endless paradise with you.
- C** **Holy Spirit, give us hearts to joyfully welcome Jesus as he reigns in us.**
- P** Let the good tidings of great joy that we rejoice in this night be know everywhere.

- C** Bless your Church throughout the world that it may be faithful in its witness and service to our Lord and to all people on Earth.
- P** Guide the rulers of nations that peace may be found.
- C** Meet the needs of all people by your good and gracious will.
- P** Heal the ill and unburden those who struggle with depression and mental illness.
- C** Let everyone who lives in sorrow look to you for consolation and be comforted.
- P** Send the joy of your salvation to every person so that they may rejoice and give glory to you because Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
- C** And so help, defend, and keep us all, through him who was born in Bethlehem, so that when he comes again to redeem us we might celebrate him eternally.
- P** We thank you for the child, for Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray,
- C** Amen.

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory Prayer

- P** Let us pray. Lord of Christmas,
- C** We are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in the manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. Accept these gifts for the sake of your son who was born to us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Stand

Eucharist Liturgy

- P** Lord God, Heavenly King, we give you thanks and praise on this holy morning when, in your goodness, you showed your supreme love for us by sending forth your only begotten Son, our Savior, to be born of a virgin, to save us all from sin.
Before you formed the heavens and the earth, he was your Word. In him you made all things. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. Yet he did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped but emptied himself to take the form of a servant, being born in our own likeness, even as a baby, lying in a manger.
For all these things, we give you thanks and herald his coming with the song of the angels:
- C** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all people.
- P** Eternal God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came to us in your name and showed your steadfast love for us. All that he did was by your will. All that he did was in your name. When we saw him, we saw the Father, for he was the

image of the invisible God.

C Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

P For love of you, O Lord, and for love of us, he offered himself up to death on a cross, that we might be saved from sin and death. Yet you did not let the powers of darkness prevail over him, but raised him from the dead to sit at your right hand in glory. And now you have given to us who believe in him the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

C Hosanna in the highest!

P On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

C On this holy morning, O Lord we remember your humble birth in a manger. We proclaim your death and resurrection. We await your coming in glory.

P Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. As Christ is Emmanuel, God with us, so fill our communion with his eternal presence, that we might know the joy and peace of his coming, have our faith renewed, and be strengthened in our hope for his return.

C O Word made flesh, be born in us again.

P Accept our prayers and praises, O Father, through your Son, our Savior, who was born this night, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, we give all honor and glory from generation to generation.

C Amen.

P As our Savior has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Distribution

We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God.

We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith. If you share our faith, and particularly if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit. If you do not confess the understanding of the Christian Faith as expressed by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, you may still come to the altar to receive a blessing. Please fold your hands to indicate that you will not be receiving the sacrament.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

**1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!**

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Joy to the World

LSB 387

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

From East to West

LSB 385

- 1 From east to west, from shore to shore
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.
- 2 Behold, the world's creator wears
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our maker shares,
His fallen creatures all to save.

- 3 For this how wondrously he wrought!
 A maiden, in her lowly place,
 Became, in ways beyond all thought,
 The chosen vessel of his grace.
- 4 And while the angels in the sky
 Sang praise above the silent field,
 To shepherds poor the Lord Most High,
 The one great Shepherd, was revealed.

- △ 5 All glory for this blessed morn
 To God the Father ever be;
 All praise to You, O Virgin-born,
 And Holy Ghost eternally.

Benediction

- P** May God the Father hold you in his comfort, peace, and joy.
C Amen.
P May the Lord Jesus Christ, who entered our world as the Son of Mary, enter
 your hearts with his grace.
C Amen.
P May the Holy Spirit open the gifts of the Lord's salvation to you.
C Amen.

Go Tell it on the Mountain

LSB 388

ref *Go tell it on the mountain,
 Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
 Go tell it on the mountain
 That Jesus Christ is born!*

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
 O'er silent flocks by night,
 Behold, throughout the heavens
 There shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
 When lo, above the earth
 Rang out the angel chorus
 That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
 The humble Christ was born;
 And God sent us salvation
 That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Sending



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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**Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people,
proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.**

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