

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**

Rev. John R. Hanson
December 25, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet Hanson and Julie Hanson

INTRODUCTION

A very merry Christmas to all who worship the Christ Child on this holy day. Our service this morning is simply the service of Holy Communion with special emphasis on the Incarnation of Christ: in the manger, in the Word, and in the Bread and Wine. Traditionally, giving praise has meant singing, therefore many parts of our Christmas liturgy this morning will be chanted. Special emphases will be spent on the Eucharistic Prayer this morning to highlight this incredible gift.

HYMN

"Joy to the World"

Green # 39

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.

No more let sin and sorrow 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.

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.

CCLI Song No. 4194811 CCLI License No. 1713417

LIGHTING THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CANDLES

After counting the weeks of Advent, we have come to Christmas Day.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. *John 1:9*
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. *John 1:14*

HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

Blue # 644

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

CCLI Song # 38583 CCLI License # 1713417

READING: Hebrews 1:1–12

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but 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.

³**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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.**

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "*You are my Son; today I have begotten you*"? Or again, "*I will be his Father, and he will be my Son*"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "*Let all God's angels worship him.*" ⁷Of the angels he

says, "*He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.*"

⁸But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

¹⁰And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹²like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

HYMN

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Green # 30

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

CCLI Song # 31999 CCLI License # 1713417

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

The joy of seeing the messenger of good news who announces peace and the reign of God and of knowing God's protection and care.

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns! ⁸The watchmen shout and sing with joy, for before their very eyes they see the Lord returning to Jerusalem. ⁹Let the ruins of Jerusalem break

into joyful song, for the Lord has comforted his people. He has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The Lord has demonstrated his holy power before the eyes of all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the victory of our God.

HYMN of PRAISE

"Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn"

Green # 43

Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn, a Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory! His lowly birth at Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim and sing redemption's story!
My soul, extol God's great favor; bless him ever for salvation;
Give him praise and adoration!

GOSPEL ANTIPHON

God is good.

All the time.

GOSPEL: John 1:1–14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."

In 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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true

light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

All the time.

God is good.

HYMN

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

SERMON - GOOD NEWS, PEOPLE!! *No more let sin and sorrow grow! He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found! This can unite us unlike any other force, it is redemption unleashed and salvation must be made known!*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Almighty God, we are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. We bring as well the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and for others. Hear our prayers and accept these gifts for the sake of your son who was born this day, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Green # 71

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

CCLI Song No. 27721 CCLI License No. 1713417

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING:

Lord God, Heavenly King, we give you thanks and praise upon this day 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 pure 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:

HYMN

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Green # 50 v 1, 4

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You who sang creation's story; now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, ye have seen his infant star.

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.

CCLI Song # 31669 CCLI License # 1713417

Eternal God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came to us in your name and showed us 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.

HYMN

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Green # 60 v 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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

CCLI Song # 3074970 CCLI License # 1713417

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.

HYMN

“Holy Child within the Manger”

Blue # 638

Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;
Come as friend to every stranger, come as hope for every fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
As you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
So we see in every stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
That our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On this holy day, O Lord:

We remember his humble birth in a manger. We proclaim his death and resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

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.

O Word made flesh, be born in us again.

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

Amen.

As our Savior has taught us, we will gladly sing:

HYMN

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Burgundy # 33

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and Redeeming God, today you have made us one with you by lovingly sending your Son to take on our frail flesh. We thank you for this Word made flesh, revealed to us in the manger and in the bread and wine. Grant that we may find in his birth the new birth that he brings in us, to live out your gospel of love in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SOLEMN BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth, bring joy to your hearts this day and always. May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace. May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations until he brings you into his eternal kingdom.

And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

THREEFOLD AMEN

“Amen, Amen, Amen”

This is the Word made flesh, the very body and blood of him who was born for us.

Come to us now, O Lord, in the breaking of bread. As once you were born in a manger in Bethlehem, come to us again in the manger of our hands and hearts. Amen