

CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

A Reason to Burst into Song

December 25, 2013

9:00am

AS WE GATHER

After the intimacy of the angels and shepherds, and the candles and carols of last night, the Evangelist John backs us away and opens our eyes to the cosmic reality of God becoming flesh. The Epistle reminds us that, far greater than His giving His Word through prophets, God has now come to us in the person of Jesus Christ. God's Old Testament people lift up their voices as they wait the prophecies' fulfillment. Therefore, all God's people have reason to burst into singing: they see His salvation in Jesus, the light of the world that has come.

PRE-SERVICE *“Silent Night” “Come All Ye Shepherds” “Joy to the World”*

+ **PREPARATION** +

(Rise)

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,

People: Lord, shine your light.

Pastor: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: Lord, shine your light.

Pastor: He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

People: Lord, shine your light.

Pastor: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

People: Lord, shine your light.

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: Shine on us!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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 **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! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*

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*

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As part of fallen creation, we have no right to join saints and angels to sing eternal praises to our Lord. But the Holy Spirit has shined the light of God's love into our hearts, giving us faith to believe that the darkness of our sin has indeed been dispelled by the coming of our Lord in the flesh. Let us therefore go to God's throne of grace, freely confessing our sins. Wonderful Counselor,

People: we confess that too often we have listened to the advice of the dark world around us. We have let the gloom of nations and the difficulties of our personal lives blind us to the light of your love. Forgive us.

Pastor: Mighty God,

People: we confess that we have ascribed too much power to the forces of evil in this world of sin. We have failed to recognize you as glorious Lord over all. Forgive us.

Pastor: Everlasting Father,

People: we confess that in our daily dilemmas we have forgotten the great forgiving love which prompted you to become one of us to die for us. We have not always sought to live in your light. Forgive us.

Pastor: Prince of Peace,

People: we confess that we have not recognized the peace which you have brought to our discordant lives. We have neither let it pervade our hearts and minds nor our homes and communities. Forgive us.

Pastor: To us a Child has been born; to us God's Son has been given! His eternal reign has broken through to our time and place with the brilliant light of His mercy and forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN #367 “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

***Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.***

Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

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

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only-begotten Son in the flesh

People: may set us free from the bondage of sin;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Nowell” John A. Behnke

+ **WORD** +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 52:7–10 (*God's salvation is cause for singing.*)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

EPISTLE Hebrews 1:1–12 (*Jesus shows us God's true nature.*)

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but 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. 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. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world,

he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.” But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.” He also says, “In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.”

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Joyful, Joyful to the World” Jay Althouse

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:6–14 (*The Word became flesh.*)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

People: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN #412 “The People That in Darkness Sat”

Stanzas 1-3

The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath'ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.

To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

SERMON

“God Spoke and Gave Us Reason to Rejoice”

John 1: 1-14

(Rise)

HYMN # 412

“The People that In Darkness Sat”

Stanzas 4-6

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored, The God by all adored.

His righteous government and pow’r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end. His reign shall have no end.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one, And Holy Spirit, one.

THE NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please **sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

SOLO

“Mary Did You Know”

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Incarnate Word of God, in the joyous celebration of your nativity, we have seen your glory. Because of your gracious visitation to comfort and redeem your people by taking their sin upon yourself, you have saved us from the unending sorrows of death and hell.

People: Grant us a blessed Christmas season, a holy 12 days of rejoicing in your incarnation to save us from our sins, sharing this joy with those we encounter.

Pastor: Incarnate Word of God, in your Holy Gospel we have seen your glory. Bless the preaching of the Gospel from the altars and pulpits you have consecrated for the purpose of delivering your gift of faith through the preaching of your Word.

People: Bless all those called to preach and those called to hear, that the light of your Word may continue to illumine the darkness of our world. Abide with those who suffer persecution for confessing its truth.

Pastor: Incarnate Word of God, by your Sacrament of Holy Baptism we have seen your glory. Make all those who have been baptized confident in the promise given to them in the waters of Baptism. Grant repentance to parents who have withheld the treasures of Baptism from their children.

People: Give to all your people hearts welcoming of children. Continue to expand your kingdom through this blessed portal to eternal life.

Pastor: Incarnate Word of God, in your word of Absolution we have seen your glory. Teach us to treasure your gift of Absolution delivered to us from the mouths of the ministers you send.

People: Continue by your word of forgiveness to silence the accusations of the accuser.

Pastor: Incarnate Word of God, in your Holy Supper we have seen your glory. From your humble entry into our world in the womb of the blessed Virgin to your first bed in a feed trough, you set aside the honor you rightly deserve to bless us with your presence.

People: As you now come to us humbly under the forms of bread and wine, bless us with a right faith that we might worthily receive your body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

Pastor: Incarnate Word of God, in your ongoing provision of daily bread we have seen your glory. By your Spirit, visit those who suffer: the sick, the sorrowing, the hospitalized, the poor, the destitute, the homeless, the unemployed.

People: Remember those who are in need of our intercessions, that they might not be given to despair but entreat their heavenly Father’s protection even in times of great need.

Pastor: Incarnate Word of God, in your crucifixion and resurrection we have seen your glory. Give comfort to those who grieve the death of loved ones. Grant to all people a sure and certain hope in the resurrection of all the dead and eternal life for all believers in you on the day of your return.

People: Keep us steadfast and faithful until the day of our departure of this life or unto the day you come again in glory.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know we need, grant us for your sake, Lord Jesus, as you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

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.

PROPER PREFACE

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 saying:

HYMN #387

“Joy to the World”

Stanzas 1 & 4

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.

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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Thanks be to you, O Lord, for in these last days you have spoken to us by your Son, whom you appointed the heir of all things. He is your Word inseparable from you; through Him you made all things and with Him you were well pleased. You sent Him from heaven into the womb of the virgin, through whom He became flesh, yet was shown to be your Son. In order to abolish death, break the bonds of sin, and defeat the age-old enemy, He was obedient to death, even death on the cross. Gather into one, we pray, all your holy people; fill them with your Holy Spirit so that they may confirm the faith within them and give you the glory in word and deed, in song and service. To you, with the Spirit and your Son, be all glory in the Church, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the 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 testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(sing to tune #361 “O Little Town of Bethlehem)

Lord Jesus, holy Lamb of God, You take our sins away;

Lord Jesus, holy Lamb of God, You take our sins away.

We who are gathered here now Ask peace for all the earth;

Grant Christmas peace to one and all, And heav'nly joy and mirth.

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(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN # 376

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in royal David’s city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood’s pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav’n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

HYMN #384

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long expected;
Let creation praise its Lord Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav’n adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev’ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory Evermore and evermore. Amen.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that you have again shone the light of your grace into our hearts by giving us the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins through the great sacrifice of your Son for us. Grant that we may depart in peace and joy, for our eyes have seen your salvation, light for the nations and joy for your people Israel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the light of Christ dispel all darkness from your life, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and abide with you forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #390 “Let Us All With Gladsome Voice”

Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lector

Acolyte

Organist

Pianists

Soloist

Trumpet

Choir Director

Instrumentalist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Dan Vaclav

Hailey Kadolph

Roger Gottschalk

Abigail & Sophia Moravec

Stacey Kukor

Joel Conrad

Nancy Hoelke

Joel Conrad

Kim Woller