

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



CHRISTMAS

Holy Infant So Tender and Mild
Christmas Day 2025

December 25, 2025



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service

From eternity, Jesus has been God, holy and majestic. When we look tenderly at the holy infant, we are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, "No one may see me and live." Yet, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived. How? God became human, hiding his glory within flesh, so that he could come to us without instilling fear or dread.

A famous theologian once said, "We are to think of the Lord's birth, where the Word became flesh, not as a past event which we recall, but as a present reality on which we gaze." It's not that Christ the Savior was born. It's that Christ the Savior is born.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 9 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist: Tammy Paul

Acknowledgements

Christmas Dialogue from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Festival of the Nativity

Please use the hymnals for any hymns that are unfamiliar or to assist in singing harmony.

Welcome

Hymn

352 Joy Has Dawned

Please join as you feel comfortable.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Christmas Dialogue

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

Our eyes have seen his salvation, which he prepared in the sight of all nations.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord,
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Being in very nature God, he did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.

God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

347 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
o'er your flocks by night, God with us is



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879; Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

The prophet foretold that the Lord would dwell among us and do what was necessary to bring the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,
who proclaims salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God is king!”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.

Together they shout for joy,
because with both eyes they will see it when the LORD returns to Zion.

⁹Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,
because the LORD is comforting his people.
He is redeeming Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God. (EHV[®])

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1–9

In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. Now God speaks to us directly through his Son.

¹In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. ²In 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. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

⁴The Son became as much superior to the 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?”

And again: “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.”

⁶And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said: “Let all God's angels worship him.”

⁷About the angels he says: “He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.”

⁸But about the Son he says: “God, your throne is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.” (EHV[®])

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Galatians 4:4,5

Alleluia. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law. Alleluia.

Gospel

John 1:1–14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

¹In 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 everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

358 Of the Father's Love Begotten

Sermon

Stand

Athanasian Creed

¹ **Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith.**

² **Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.**

³ **Now this is the true Christian faith:**

²⁷ **It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation that one faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.**

²⁸ **Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.**

²⁹ **He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,**

³⁰ **fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh;**

³¹ **equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;**

³² **and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one:**

³³ **one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;**

³⁴ **one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;**

³⁵ **for just as the rational soul and flesh is one human being, so God and man is one Christ.**

³⁶ **He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.**

³⁷ **He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.**

³⁸ **At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.**

³⁹ **Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.**

⁴⁰ **This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

Give us faith and courage.



The Athanasian Creed is named for St. Athanasius, a fourth-century defender of the Christian faith, though it was written later to address serious errors about God and Christ. It clearly confesses the biblical teaching of the Trinity and that Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person, teaching that these doctrines are essential to the Christian faith. The creed also speaks of good works as the natural result of saving faith. While good works do not earn salvation, they testify to a living faith in Christ and will be evident on the Last Day.

Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas, grant to them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom. **Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.**

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Connect Card and Offering

The loose offerings from today's service (those not in offering envelopes) will be given to our pastor and staff minister in thanks for their dedication and service to the Lord.

Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



Questions for Examination

- † *Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?*
- † *Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?*
- † *Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?*
- † *Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?*
- † *Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?*
- † *If you answered “no” to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, the pastor would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.*

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



CHRISTMAS
COMMUNION

Christmas Day proclaims the miracle that the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. How fitting, then, that today we celebrate the Lord's Supper, where this incarnate Savior is truly present with his body and blood in the sacrament, bringing us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Holy, Holy, Holy

363 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-1874, alt.; Tune: German, 14th cent., alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

344 What Child Is This



1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.. Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

361 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

356 *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

335 *To Shepherds as They Watched by Night*

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

342 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is

In this hymn, we are led to the manger, where the Word made flesh meets us in humble love. We are invited to linger in wonder that the eternal Son chose such lowliness for our salvation and to hold this gracious Savior as our true treasure.

