

December 25, 2023: Christmas Day

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY: God Became Man

Preservice:

Handbells

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” “German Carol Medley”

Processional Cross

Please stand, face the processional cross, and join to sing as the cross processes in.

Hymn: 354 O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

Continued on the next page



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

Amen.

Dialogue

We gather this blessed Christmas morn to receive the gift of God's own Son,
yet we must acknowledge the reason God's SON had to become man.

Once we were alienated from God and were enemies in our minds because of our evil behavior.

**Our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens.
Have mercy on Lord. Spare us and forgive us according to your unfailing love.**

Since the children have flesh and blood, Christ too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil,
And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Now God has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

This is the gospel that you heard and has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.
Our eyes have seen his salvation, which he prepared in the sight of all nations.

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.

Hymn: 346 Angels We Have Heard on High

sts. 1,3



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French
Tune: French
Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

Salutation

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

Micah 5:2-5a

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: All You Faithful Listen

Male Chorus

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 353 Joy to the World

sts. 1–3

Stand

Gospel

John 1:1–18

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 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.

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

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.

¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 355 Let All Together Praise Our God

sts. 1–5

Sermon: John 1

Pastor Joel Zank

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

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.

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.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

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. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**

Offering

If you are visiting Mount Olive today, please don't feel obligated to give an offering. We are happy to have you as our guest today. Please do sign the friendship register and leave your contact information. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring donation, scan the QR code to visit Mount Olive's online giving page. Thank you!



Notes for Holy Communion: Ushers will direct you forward to the waiting line. Wafers are distributed to each person's hand. If you need a gluten-free wafer, hold your hand palm down. Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of each tray of cups. If you need assistance taking the cup, hold up your hand and the distributor will pour the cup into your mouth.

The Sacrament

Stand

Words of Institution

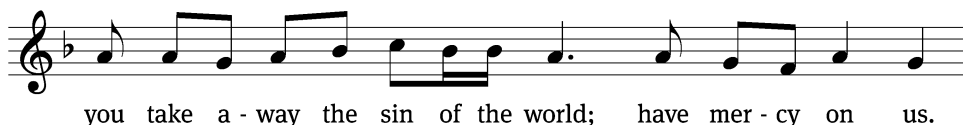
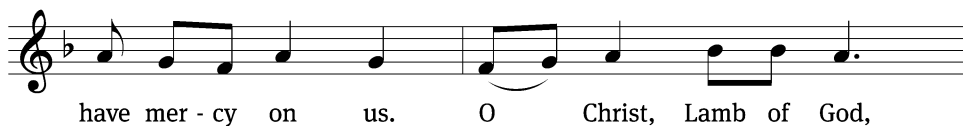
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger 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



Continued on the next page

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Distribution

Hymn: 330 Peace Came to Earth

Hymn: 342 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is

Stand

Thanksgiving

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.

Post-Communion Prayer

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.

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.

Presiding Minister:

Pastor Robert Raasch

Organist:

Jon Riehle

Male Chorus:

Jerry Gronholz

Instrumentalists:

*Sharon Meyer, Caitlin Kirchner,
Seth, Norah, and Silas Jaeger, James and Julie Neujahr,
Katherine Oleszko, Evan Pastorek*

Handbells:

Amy Nogar

Acknowledgments

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