

# Christmas Blessings



*Christmas Day Service  
December 25, 2021*



# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

*11 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion*

## ✧ GATHERING ✧

**PRELUDE**

**“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

**Thomas Eisnor**

*-Alec Wyton*

*Stand and face the baptismal font.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

**G Amen.**

**P** Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God’s mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God of peace,

**G We confess that we are not at peace— with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy,**

**mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**P** In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God’s pardon and peace: In the name of † Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

**G Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**“Angels from the Realms of Glory”**

**ELW #275**

### **GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**G Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

## WORD

### FIRST READING

- L** A reading from Isaiah.

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>1</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

- L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** *(please read responsively)*

**Psalm 98**

<p><b>A</b> O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.</p> <p><b>C</b> <b>The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.</b></p>	<p><b>A</b> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.</p> <p><b>C</b> <b>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.</b></p> <p>3</p>
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- A** Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- G** **With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**
- A** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

- G** **Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy** at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.
- G** **He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

## SECOND READING

- L** A reading from Hebrews.

**Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but 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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For 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"?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,

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

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

<sup>10</sup>And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup>like 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."

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL**

**P** The holy Gospel according to St. John.

**John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

**“Christmas Children”**

**Pastor Ruth**

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”**

**ELW #297**

## NICENE CREED

**C** 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*(As the Assisting Minister closes each petition with the words, "Merciful God," worshipers respond with the words, "Receive our prayer.")*

## PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

## OFFERTORY SONG "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*- Alec Wyton*

Thomas Eisnor

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## MEAL

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C** 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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** The bread of life comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Come, eat, and live.

*Sit*

## COMMUNION

- *All are invited to come and receive the real presence of Christ in the sacrament.*
- *Follow the directions of the ushers, who will release you from your rows toward the center aisle.*
- *Come forward and kneel at the altar railing. If you wish to commune, extend your hand to the pastor, who will place a piece of bread in your hand. Receive the red wine or white grape juice by individual glass.*
- *Those who do not wish to take communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.*
- *Return to your seats by the side aisle.*

## COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

**“That Christmas Day with Joy So Bright”**  
-Alec Wyton

Thomas Eisnor

## COMMUNION HYMN

**“What Child Is This”**

ELW #296

*Stand*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.
- C** Amen.

 SENDING 

## BLESSING

- P** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
- C** Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

ELW #290

## SENDING

- P** Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

**“In the Bleak Midwinter”**  
by John Innes

Thomas Eisnor



*We are called, gathered and blessed to be a community and instrument of grace for all sheep of the Good Shepherd.*

Ruth E. Hamilton, Interim Pastor  
Thomas Eisnor, Organist/Choir Director



## *Merry Christmas!*

If you ordered a poinsettia and wish to take it home, please pick it up after today's service. Poinsettias not picked up will be given away.

Are you worshipping with us for the first time?

**WE WELCOME YOU!**

Typically, our Sunday services are at  
8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

We offer Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. for all ages.

**Come Worship with Us!**

*Join us for the First Sunday of Christmas*

*Sunday, December 26 - 10:30 AM*

*and Epiphany*

*Sunday, January 2 - 8:30 AM Traditional Worship*

*10:45 AM Praise Worship Service*



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