

The Feast of Our Lord's Nativity

December 25, 2014

A Service of Word and Sacrament

TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book
(If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

NOTE TO VISITORS ABOUT COMMUNION

To share in the Lord's Supper at this congregation is an expression of unity in all the doctrines we confess (1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Cor. 10:17; 1 Cor. 11:27f). For this reason, we ask that visitors who are not members of a CLC congregation first meet with the pastor, so that they can understand all that we teach and believe before communing as "one body" at the altar. You can read about our practice of close communion in the blue trifold pamphlet in the entry way. Thank you for your understanding. Please feel free to talk with the pastor after the service.

Preservice Devotion: Psalm 2, TLH p.123

OPENING READING

Luke 2:1-14

ENTRANCE HYMN

TLH 102 *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

✧ LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE ✧

Minister (M): In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY LITANY

M Lord Jesus, as we behold You lying a manger:

C Your lowliness does not make You seem a stranger.

M With eyes of faith we see true God in Thee:

C The Son begotten in eternity.

M By Thee were made all things in earth and heaven:

C By Thee our daily breath and bread are given.

M Yet Thou didst choose in crib and stall to lie:

C That we might live and reign with Thee on high.

Sing (Melody Of Hymn 105, brief intro):

♪ **Hail to the Father's Son Who came, From heav'n to sinful earth!
Then sing for joy! Loud, loud proclaim, The wonders of His birth!**

M O Lord, what mind can know, what tongue can tell:

C The wonder: Thou with men as man dost dwell?

M And yet a greater mystery stands revealed:

C All Thy great might and power for us concealed.

M On Thee was laid all our iniquity:

C O'er Thee was poured God's wrath - for you and me.

M But when Thou hadst as One accursed died:

C God, raising Thee, declared Thee justified.

M From all men's guilt He there pronounced Thee free:

C Then we through Thee, our Substitute, are free.

M Incarnate God, of Thee our song shall be:

♪ **The Son redeemed and justified, All guilty sons of earth!
Then share your joy, Tell far and wide, The wonders of His birth!**

M The angel hosts once at Thy birth rejoiced:

C In glorious song their glad thanksgiving voiced.

M No less their joy when Thou from death didst rise:

C They saw men pardoned, guiltless in God's eyes.

M And now they see Thee rule on high as King:

C And Thy Glad Tidings to a lost world bring.

M Now Thou, the Lowly, homeless at Thy birth:

C Dost find a home in countless hearts on earth.

M Our hearts and souls now ring with joy that sings:

♪ **Our King brings souls from ev'ry clime; In grace He rules the earth.
Then, Christians, praise in song sublime, The wonders of His birth.**

SELECTED READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaiah 11:1-5

Matthew 1:18-25

CREED OF OUR LORD'S INCARNATION

from the Gospel of John, chapter 1

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 were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN

TLH 94 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

SERMON

Isaiah 11:6–16

6 “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.
7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.
9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
As the waters cover the sea.
10 “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious.”
11 It shall come to pass in that day
That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time
To recover the remnant of His people who are left,
From Assyria and Egypt,
From Pathros and Cush,
From Elam and Shinar,
From Hamath and the islands of the sea.
12 He will set up a banner for the nations,
And will assemble the outcasts of Israel,
And gather together the dispersed of Judah
From the four corners of the earth.

A King Who Accomplishes Peace on Earth

(His Victory)

M The peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

GIFTS TO OUR KING

PRAYERS TO OUR KING

In the joy that we have through Jesus, begotten of the Father from eternity and yet also born of the Virgin Mary, let us pray,

For the Church throughout the world, that the true Light which brings light to every man would shine forth from the midst of Your people, we pray, **hear us, Prince of Peace.**

For pastors, teachers, and all believers everywhere, that the joyous Good News of Jesus birth would shine ever brighter through the words and actions

of Your people and that all the ends of the earth would see the salvation of our God, we pray, **hear us, Prince of Peace.**

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for confessing Your name before men, that our Lord of heaven and earth would grant peace and rest, we pray, **hear us, Prince of Peace.**

For leaders of nations and for all in positions of authority, that they may rule wisely and that they would use their privileged offices to uphold godly living in our society – to reward what is good and punish what is evil, we pray, **hear us, Prince of Peace.**

For all who serve in our armed forces and are far away from home during this festive season, for all who suffer from violence and war, for those who protect us and also for our enemies, that all would be led to know and believe in You, the God of all creation, we pray, **hear us, Prince of Peace.**

For those who are alone or depressed, for those who face daily strife within their family and relations, that the light of Christ would cast out all darkness, we pray, **hear us, Prince of Peace.**

For the poor, the hungry, the jobless, the homeless, and all who are burdened by the struggles of this world, that they may know the blessing of the refuge and relief we find in the Lord of Glory, we pray, **hear us, Prince of Peace.**

For those who are sick, hospitalized, suffering, or mourning, that in the midst of their temporary affliction they would remember their eternal redemption through our Savior's life, death, and resurrection, we pray, **hear us, Prince of Peace.**

That Your glad tidings of great joy would bring the peace of sins forgiven to all people, we pray, **hear us, Prince of Peace.**

Rejoicing in these glad tidings, we give all glory to God in the highest and thanks for this peace of forgiveness, through Your name, O Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, trusting in Your redemption, both now and forever. In that name we join,

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!



A Service of the Sacrament



APPROACH

M Unto us a Child is born!

C Unto us a Son is given!

Sing (brief intro):

♪ **Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.**

M The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

C And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Hallelujah!

♪ **See how God, for us providing,
Gave His Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woe to heavenly joy.**

M Oh come, let us worship and bow down.

C Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

M Beloved in the Lord, we bow before our Creator God who became flesh and blood that He might give us His body and blood for our redemption. We implore our heavenly Father in the name of His only Son, born of the virgin Mary, to grant us forgiveness.

C Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

M Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C Amen.

♪ **From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.**

M Let us pray, Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matt. 26, Mk 14, Lk 22, 1 Cor. 11

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'

M The peace of the Lord be with you always!

♪ **Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us,
From Thy lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join the angelic choir.**



DISTRIBUTION



DEPARTURE

M Go in peace, serve the Lord with gladness!

♪ **Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to Thee we come confessing,
That our freedom thou hast wrought!**

THE BENEDICTION

M The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **Amen.**

♪ **Sin and death may well be groaning,
Satan now may well be moaning;
We, our full salvation owning,
Cast our every care away.**

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Welcome! To our Christmas worshipers. "This is the day which the Lord has made. We will be glad and rejoice in it." As we stand at the foot of the manger and contemplate the significance of the Christ Child Savior for us and for all mankind, may our hearts be filled with awe and praise over the Christmas miracle and blessing. May the Lord grant each of you a most blessed Christmas.