

# The Feast of Our Lord's Nativity

December 25, 2015

Merry Christmas and Welcome to this  
Celebration of Our Savior's Birth

## 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

**John 1:1-14**

✧ LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE ✧

### OPENING HYMN

**WS 708** *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

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

**Congregation (C): Amen.**

### CHRISTMAS DAY LITANY (spoken)

- M We approach the manger in humble adoration, confessing our sins and worshipping Him by faith,
- C Heavenly Father, we come before You as unworthy sinners who deserve neither Your grace nor the blessings of Christmas. Have mercy on us for the sake of our ChristChild Savior. Release us from Satan's sin-prison and heal our broken hearts.**
- M As your called shepherd, I rejoice with Isaiah of old to announce to you the Messiah's coming with saving grace. For He has come "to heal the broken-hearted and to proclaim deliverance to the captives" (Isaiah 61:1). May this proclamation of Christmas forgiveness be yours and may God so grant you a heart filled with true Christmas joy.

- C He comes the prisoners to release, In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst, the iron fetters yield.  
He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.**
- M He comes our Lord Jesus Christ, true God, Son of the Father from  
eternity,**
- C He comes our Lord Jesus Christ, true Man, born of the virgin  
Mary**
- M You redeemed us from sin, death and the power of Satan.**
- C Not with gold or silver, but with Your holy, precious blood and  
with Your innocent suffering and death.**
- M Now claim us as Your own, to live under You in Your kingdom,**
- C To serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence and  
blessedness.**
- M Just as You are risen from the dead and live and rule eternally.**
- C We hear the Christmas angels the great, glad tidings tell;  
O, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.**

#### SELECTED READINGS

**Micah 5:2-5a**

**Is. 7:10-14**

**Hebrews 1:1-6**

#### THE APOSTLES' CREED

- C I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**
- I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty.  
From there He will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**
- I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### HYMN

**WS 715** *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

#### SERMON

**John 1:1-5,9**

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.

## The Birth That Brings Light to ALL

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

HYMN

**TLH 87** *Joy to the World*

### 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.

♪ **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 and death;  
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 your hearts be filled with awe and praise over the Christmas miracle and blessing. May the Lord grant each of you a most blessed Christmas.