

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY



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**P:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, ^all the earth;\*

Break forth into joyous song and sing ^praises.

**C:** **Glory be to the Father and ^to the † Son\* and to the Holy ^Spirit;  
as it was in the be^ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. ^Amen.**

**P:** For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is ^given;\*

And the government shall be upon His ^shoulder,  
And His name shall be called Wonderful ^Counselor\*  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, ^Prince of Peace.

## **KYRIE**

*Hymnal page: 186*

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

*Hymnal page: 187*

**P:** The Lord be with you. **C:** **And with thy spirit.**

**P:** 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 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C:** **Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Isaiah 52: 7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings Good News, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes Salvation, who says to Zion, "*Your God reigns.*" The voice of your watchmen--they lift up their voice. Together they sing for joy. For eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. 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.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL**

*Isaiah 9: 6; Psalm 98: 1a*

**C:** **To us a Child is born, to us a Son is ^given;\***  
**And the government shall be upon His ^shoulder,**

*Continued next page*

**And His name shall be called Wonderful ^Counselor\*  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, ^Prince of Peace.  
Sing to the LORD a ^new song,\* for He has done mar^velous things!**

## **EPISTLE**

**Hebrews 1: 1-12**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, Whom He appointed the Heir of all things, through Whom also He created the world. He is the Radiance of the Glory of God and the exact Imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the Word of His power.

After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the Name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, *"You are My Son, today I have begotten You"*? Or again, *"I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"*? And again, when He brings the Firstborn into the world, He says, *"Let all God's angels worship Him."*

Of the angels He says, *"He makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire."* But of the Son He says, *"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the Scepter of Uprightness is the Scepter of Your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions."*

And, *"You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe You will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end."*

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

**Stand**

## GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL & RECESSIONAL

Choir

Cantate Domino canticum novum omnis terra  
(Ps. 96:1 Sing to the Lord a New Song)

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 1: 1-18

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C:** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

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 was not any thing made that was made. In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome It.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through Him. He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light.

The true Light, which gives Light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God, 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 have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of Grace and Truth. (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, "*This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'*") For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, Who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C:** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

*Hymnal page: 191*

**SERMON HYMN**      **Now Sing We Now Rejoice**      *Hymnal page: 386*

**SERMON**  
**OFFERTORY**      *Hymnal page: 192*

**OFFERING**  
**PRAYER**

## **Service of the Sacrament**

**PREFACE**      *Hymnal page: 194*

**SANCTUS**      *Hymnal page: 195*

*It is appropriate to make the sign of the cross at 'Blessed is He Who come in the name of the Lord.'*

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving will be omitted after the Sanctus.*

**LORD'S PRAYER**      *Hymnal page: 196*

*During the Lord's Prayer it is appropriate to make the sign of the cross at  
'Deliver us from evil.'*

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**      *Hymnal page: 197*

**AGNUS DEI**      *Hymnal page: 198*

**DISTRIBUTION**

**CHOIR** A Babe is born in Bethlehem *Michael Praetorius (Arr. By Thomas Lock)*

1. A Babe is born in Bethlehem, therefore rejoice Jerusalem. Alleluia!
2. He doth within a manger lie, Whose throne is set above the sky. Alleluia!
3. The serpent's wound He beareth not, yet takes our blood and shares our lot. Alleluia!
4. To fallen man Himself He bowed, that He might lift us up to God. Alleluia!
5. On this most blessed Jubilee, all glory be, O God, to Thee. Alleluia!
6. The Holy Trinity be praised, to God our ceaseless thanks be raised. Alleluia!

*During the DISTRIBUTION the following hymns will be sung from the hymnal page shown:*

**We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth**      **382**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**      **380**

**See Amid the Winter Snow**      **373**

*After the Distribution, the pastor shall dismiss the communicants with the following blessing:*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart **✠** in peace. **G: Amen.**

**NUNC DIMITTIS**      *Hymnal page: 199*

**THANKSGIVING  
SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS  
BENEDICTION**

*Hymnal page: 200*

*Hymnal page: 201*

*Hymnal page: 202*

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**All My Heart Rejoices**

*Hymnal page: 360*

**POSTLUDE**

**TODAY 12/25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

10 AM – Divine Service/Holy Communion

**NEXT SUNDAY 12/27 The First Sunday after Christmas**

9 AM – Divine Service/Holy Communion

No Sunday School or Bible Class

**Great thanks** to **Martin Dicke** for taking the organ bench today.

**ALTAR BELLS**

A set of **altar** or **sanctus** (holy) **bells** have been donated to Trinity by one of our lay members. They are a worthy addition to the conduct of our Divine Services. You may, however, not be familiar with what they are and how they are employed in the Divine Service.

In western Christianity, including Lutheranism, where they are making a return to the practices of the church, altar or sanctus (holy) bells are a small hand-held bell or set of bells. The reason for the use of such bells is to create a joyful noise to the Lord as a way to give thanks for the miracle taking place atop the altar during the Words of Institution, and thus, to focus the attention of those attending the Divine Service on what is taking place on the altar.

The bells are kept on the credence table where the elements used for the celebration of the Sacrament are kept until needed for preparation for the Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood to the communicants. The bells are rung two times during the Words of Institution. First, at the words of Christ, ***This is My body***. Then, again, at Christ's Words, ***This cup is the new testament in My blood***. The ringing of the bells brings attention to the real presence of Christ.

We will use these bells for the first time today and at each Divine Service when the Lord's Supper is celebrated.

## **Poinsettias**

Thank you to everyone who donated a poinsettia:

Allison Family, Pastor & Linda Bauer, Brand Family, Crawford Family, Martin & Marie Dicke, Fehr Family, Deborah & Gary Gokey, Green Family, Rob & Kathy Grossman, Ron & Jan Holle, Richard & Susan Huebner Holly & Larry Kort, Helen Kort, Mike & Mary Koskosky, Kuhl Family, Jim & Kim Mallore, McDaniel Family, Mixell Family, Les Osten, Marcia & Ron Pfister, Sherrill Family, Thomas Family, Bob & Dixie Yergert.