

WATER OF LIFE

LUTHERAN CHURCH



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 25, 2021 | 10 AM

WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

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PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL ✠ SEEK THE THIRSTY ✠ TEACH THE WORD

✧ *As We Gather* ✧

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

God's Son has arrived in this world to make us the Father's own dear children. Let us rejoice this morning as we sing the praises of the babe of Bethlehem and gather to receive Him. Fears be gone, for on Christmas our gracious God has given birth to His perfect plan to cancel our sin and make us His own forever!

Please follow the service in the worship folder. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering box at the Sanctuary door.

✧ *In the Name of Jesus* ✧

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Tune and text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Psalms 124:8; 130:3

Pastor Our help is in the name of the LORD,
People **Who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
People **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor Since we are gathered this Christmas morning to hear God's Word and to marvel at the mystery of the Word becoming flesh, let us first consider our unworthiness before God and confess before Him and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Pastor We cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition; only God's Son, Jesus Christ, has set us free from our fears and failures, our sin and death, and He enables us to live forever as God's children. Let us then take refuge in the infinite mercy of our God and, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, say: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
People **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, born into this world on Christmas, to live, suffer, die, and rise again for you. For Jesus' sake, your heavenly Father forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, It is my privilege to announce this message of grace unto you and, as Christ has commanded, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray.

People **Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from our fears and from the bondage of our sin that we may rejoice**

in Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How 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."
⁸The 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.
⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The 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.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 1:1-6

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For 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"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

(Please rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel)

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 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 bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Tune and text: Public domain

APOSTLES' CREED

**ALL I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL 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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It On the Mountain

LSB 388

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.

Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Tune and text: Public domain



Christ, the Savior, is born!

Join us tomorrow for Sunday worship!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

9 AM ✱ TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR ADULT BIBLE STUDY)

Glory to the newborn King!

