

## Opening Hymn

### 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels;  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est  
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

#### *Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

- P** Tonight is the night for which we have been waiting. The Advent wreath is completed with the Christ candle in the center.
- C** "For unto us a child is given, unto us a Savior is born and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders."
- P** With the birth of Christ our lives are centered, focused,

turned toward God. We light this candle because Christ is the center of our lives.

*(The Christ Candle Is Lit)*

**P** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, who sends Your only begotten Son, on this night as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let the power of Christ come into our hearts that we might find peace with You forever.

**C** Amen.

(Stand)

### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Psalm 96: 1-4, 11-13 (antiphon v2)

**P** Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**C** Oh sing to the Lord a new song:  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**P** Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**C** Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous  
works among all the peoples!

**P** For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.

**C** Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the  
sea roar, and all that fills it;

**P** let the field exult, and everything in it!

**C** Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before  
the Lord, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

**P** He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in  
his faithfulness.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
forever. Amen.

**P** Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**Collect of the Day**

**P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

(Sit)

**First Lesson-Luke 1:26-35**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And He came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy -the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed her.

## 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - hide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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## Second Lesson – Luke 1:46-56

And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

### 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,  
 3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
 And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.  
 Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:  
 When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."  
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,  
 Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,  
 His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
 And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.  
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.  
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Third Lesson – Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, since he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give

birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

### 370 What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

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### Fourth Lesson – Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear

not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

### 368 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dare on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



*Refrain*  
Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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### Fifth Lesson – Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### 364 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,  
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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### Lesson – John 1: 1-5, 9-14

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 were made through him, and without him was not anything 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.

The true light, which enlightens 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.

### **Sermon**

### **Offering**

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, this day we celebrate the gift of life, born in Bethlehem to be our Savior. Since, as His redeemed children, we have the command and invitation to do so, let us now bring our prayers and our petitions before the throne of grace, praising God and saying:

**C** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**P** From the very beginning of time, God has given the command to be fruitful and multiply. He has blessed and sanctified families throughout history, most significantly through the birth of the Christ Child. May God continue to bless all the families represented here; may each relationship be strengthened or restored; may the Almighty Father protect and keep each family, providing for all of their needs through His riches in Christ Jesus, so that together they can all rejoice in His goodness, praising God and saying:

**C** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**P** Dear Lord, we especially pray for the unborn children all around the world. Bless their mothers with good health, surround them with people who love them and are determined to provide

each child with everything needed to support both body and life. Keep the little ones safe up to and through delivery; let them also be gathered into the family of faith, so that they can join their voices with ours, praising God and saying:

**C Glory to God in the highest!**

**P** God Himself also provides for the needs of people by means beyond the family circle. Good civic leaders and servants — mayors and councils, emergency workers and health-care providers — all of them are “masks of God,” means through which He blesses us and keeps us safe. Let us thank God for them and ask Him to keep them in His care, praising God and saying:

**C Glory to God in the highest!**

**P** Even on this blessed day, as we are surrounded by so many of our fellow believers, we are reminded of so many others who are not here. We pray for those who have wandered from the faith, whether through rebellion, ignorance or the deceitfulness of this world’s temptations. God grant that they hear the Savior’s call, wherever they are. Bring them back into fellowship with us here, that together we can worship the newborn King, praising God and saying:

**C Glory to God in the highest!**

**P** Father, You also care for the lonely and the destitute. Guide us, as Your children and Your servants, to reach out to those who are alone in this otherwise festive time of year. Help us find them and include them, reflecting the love You have shown to us, so that they truly have a reason to join us in praising God and saying:

**C Glory to God in the highest!**

**P** Bless the sick and the shut-ins of our congregation, Lord. Let them feel Your loving, healing presence; be their rock and their refuge in every trouble. Feeble voice or strong, You love them, and with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, they can join in praising God and saying:

**C Glory to God in the highest!**

**P** Receive our prayers and our praise, Lord God Almighty, for  
You live and reign forever: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

#### **Lord's Prayer**

**P** 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 tres-  
pass 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**

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

**(Closing Hymn on Last page)**

Closing Hymn  
363 Silent Night, Holy Night



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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