



THE GIFT OF GOD

The Festival of the Incarnation of Our Lord

Christmas Day

December 25, 2025 ✠ 10:00 am

WELCOME GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as you're comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me!

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher and Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

∞ The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**. ∞

As the hymn is introduced, the congregation is invited to stand and turn to the back of the church where the cross of Jesus is lifted for our eyes to follow from the back to the front of the church as it is carried forward while we sing of our joy.

This is a reminder that we can approach God our Father in worship because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Jesus died for us and He goes first. We approach our Father in and with Jesus Christ. (1 John 2:1-2)

The cross is placed next to the pulpit where it reminds us that "Christ crucified" is the central message of all Christian teaching (1 Corinthians 1:23)

JOY TO THE WORLD

Hymn 353, st. 1+4

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

To us a child is born!

To us a Son is given!

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.

We have seen His glory; the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth!

O Lord, we confess that we do not deserve the magnificence of Your love for we have not loved You and we have not loved one another as You desire. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, in our words and in our deeds.

Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for the sake of your great love. Deliver and restore us that we may find true peace.

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Hymn 346, st 1+3

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.


And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST LESSON | Genesis 3:8-15 Sin enters the world...and God gives the first gospel promise

hen the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me-- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God

said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN | O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL


Hymn 354, st 1+4

Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

SECOND LESSON | Genesis 12:1-3

God promises a Savior through Abraham's line

 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.


HYMN | OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

Hymn 358, st. 1+3+5

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see - Evermore and evermore.
This is he whom heav'n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord - Evermore and evermore.
Christ, to you, with God the Father, And the Spirit ceaselessly
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion
And eternal victory - Evermore and evermore.

THIRD LESSON | Micah 5:2-4

God reveals the Savior will be a ruler born in Bethlehem

 ut you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Let all together praise our God
before his highest throne;
today he opens heav'n again
and gives us his own Son,
and gives us his own Son.

2 He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne,
is born an infant small,
and in a manger, poor and lone,
lies in a humble stall,
lies in a humble stall.

3 He veils in flesh his pow'r divine
a servant's form to take,
in want and lowliness must pine
who heav'n and earth did make,
who heav'n and earth did make.

4 He undertakes a great exchange,
puts on our human frame,
and in return gives us his realm,
his glory, and his name,
his glory, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—
a great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
to help me in my need,
to help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
to God our thanks we pay,
to God our thanks we pay.

FOURTH LESSON | Luke 1:26-38

God's promise takes on human flesh by His Spirit

*I*n the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign

over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

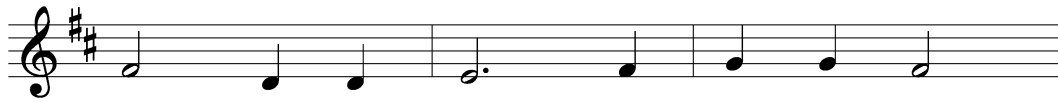
"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

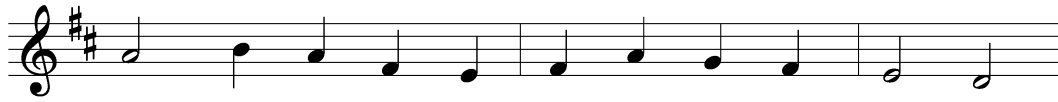
"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

The Word of the Lord.

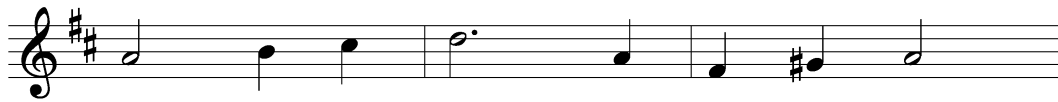
Thanks be to God.



1 O Je - sus Christ, your man - ger is
 3 Dear Chris - tian friend, on him de - pend;
 4 Pon - der a - gain what glo - ry then
 5 The world may hold her wealth and gold;



my par - a - dise at which I am re - clin - ing.
 be of good cheer and let no sor - row move you.
 the Lord will give you for your earth - ly sad - ness.
 but you, my heart, keep Christ as your true trea - sure.



For there, O Lord, we find the Word
 For God's own Child in mer - cy mild
 The an - gel host can nev - er boast
 To him hold fast un - til at last



made flesh for us—your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.
 joins you to him—how great - ly God must love you!
 of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.
 a crown is yours and hon - or in full mea - sure.

FIFTH LESSON | Matthew 1:18-25

God's Son will save His people from their sins

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him

the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"— which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN | WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Hymn 344

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping,
whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

SIXTH LESSON | Luke 2:1-20

The Lord enters human history, just as promised

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a

sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

He whose praise the shepherds sounded—
told, by angel hosts surrounded,
that their fears were all unfounded—
now is born our glorious King!

2 Wise men—precious gifts preparing,
myrrh and gold and incense bearing,
in true faith, their love declaring—
to the conqu'ring Lion cling.

3 Join in Mary's jubilation!
Angels, in their heav'nly station,
hail the birth that brings salvation.
Oh, how sweet their holy song!

4 Sing throughout the sanctuary:
Christ the King is born of Mary,
God and man, our sins to carry.
Thanks and praise to him belong!

SEVENTH LESSON | John 1:1-14 The Word made flesh gives us the right to be children of

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world,

and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 363, st. 1-3

HYMN | NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE

Now sing we, now rejoice,
now raise to heav'n our voice;
he from whom joy streameth
poor in a manger lies;
not so brightly beameth
the sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
thro' thy grace and merit,
blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
draw me unto thee!
Draw me unto thee!

3 Now through his Son doth shine the Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us through sin and vanity
till he opened for us a bright eternity.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!

CONFESSION OF THE FAITH

Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed

It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh. Now this is the true Christian faith.

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

**He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father,
and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,
fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh...**

**equal to the Father as to his deity,
less than the Father as to his humanity;**

and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons, but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

OFFERING | *Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.*



There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship You and Your Son this holy morning. By Your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

Glory to God in the highest!

We pray for Your blessing upon the people of our city, our nation, and our world.

Glory to God in the highest!

We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

Glory to God in the highest!

We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

Glory to God in the highest!

Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS *Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.*

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!**

THE SACRAMENT

please stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth You have opened our eyes to the glory of Your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of Your love.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS

Matthew 26

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On this festival of the Incarnation, when we rejoice that the Son of God has come to us in human flesh and blood, we receive the same body and blood, once given and shed for us on the cross, now given to us for our joy, strength, forgiveness, healing and peace. Here we meet and receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN | LOVE HAS COME

Hymn 364

1. Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

2. Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3. Love has come and never will leave us
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hymn 350, st. 1+2

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all you nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see,
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3 Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

After the distribution, the pastor speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

PRAYER

Please stand.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 136:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

And the blessing of God Almighty — the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit — be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Please remain standing for the closing hymn.

CLOSING HYMN | JOY HAS DAWNED

Hymn 352

Joy has dawned upon the world,
promised from creation—
God's salvation now unfurled,
hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love—
Jesus born of Mary.

2 Sounds of wonder fill the sky
with the songs of angels
as the mighty Prince of life
shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast,
vuln'erable and helpless.

3 Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
gazing at the glory.
Gifts of men from distant lands
prophesy the story:
gold—a king is born today;
incense—God is with us;
myrrh—his death will make a way,
and by his blood he'll win us.

4 Son of Adam, Son of heav'n,
given as a ransom;
reconciling God and man,
Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a friend!
What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem,
now the Lord of hist'ry.



We thank the Lord for our accompanist, Amy Sehloff and instrumentalists, Tom Bruce and Tori Diersen.

Merry Christmas!