



***“What’s In a Name?”***  
***Friday, December 24, 2021 4:00PM***  
***Worship Service***

**AS WE GATHER**

Throughout history, our gracious God has made outlandish promises. His spokesmen, the writers of biblical books, said that a descendant of David would come to sit on an eternal royal throne. More than that, His titles would include some reserved for God in heaven. He was and is a Wonderful Counselor, revealing God’s love in His own life and death; the Mighty God, though hidden within fragile flesh and blood; the Everlasting Father, though trapped in time and space; and the Prince of Peace, ruling not by enforcement of divine law but by forgiving all who call to Him for grace and mercy. Today, we celebrate His birth among us in time, as promised long ago and in our hearts each day.

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Bells)**

**“Joy to the World”**

**arr. Thompson**

**PREPARATION**

**OPENING HYMN**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**LSB 379 sts. 1, ref, 2–4**

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
 Joyful and triumphant!  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
 Come and behold Him  
 Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him,  
 O come, let us adore Him,  
 O come, let us adore Him,  
 Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,  
 Light of Light eternal,  
 Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
 Son of the Father  
 Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
 Sing in exultation,  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
 Glory to God  
 In the highest: Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
 Born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!  
 Word of the Father  
 Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**1 John 4:9, 12b**

**P** Brothers and sisters, although “God abides in us and His love is perfected in us,” we sin every day and need the assurance of His forgiveness. Let us go to God, seeking His power to amend our sinful lives.

Lord Jesus, the love of God made manifest among us,

**C** **we have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Without Your help we cannot change. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## WORD

*Sit*

**HYMN OF PRAISE (Bell Choir)**

**“Song of the Angels”**

**arr. Page**

*Stand*

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

**C** **Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge;**

**P** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Isaiah 7:10–14**

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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

**P** To us a child is born,  
**C** to us a son is given;

**P** and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

**C** And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**P** Sing to the Lord a new song,  
**C** for He has done marvelous things!

*Stand***HOLY GOSPEL****Matthew 1:18–25**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit***CHORAL ANTHEM****“Who Would Send a Baby?”****Beall****LESSONS AND CAROLS****LESSON****Isaiah 11:1, 4a; Numbers 24:15b, 17a; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2**

**P** Our gracious God did not become one of us unexpectedly; rather, through the ages, He promised to enter human history to save us. Let us hear some of the prophecies and respond in song.

**P** Isaiah wrote about a descendant of Jesse, David’s father:

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. With righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.”

**HYMN****“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”****LSB 359 st. 1**

1 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming  
As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow’ret bright,

Amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.

Text: Public domain

**P** In Numbers, chapter 24, we read that the Savior would be royal.

“The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, . . . I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.”

**HYMN** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” **LSB 357 sts. 1, ref**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: Public domain

**P** Isaiah even wrote about our Lord’s virgin birth.

“The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

**HYMN** “Savior of the Nations, Come” **LSB 332 st. 1**

1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Text: Public domain

## **PART 1, LESSON 4**

**P** Micah foretold where Jesus would be born.

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.”

**HYMN** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” **LSB 361 st. 1**

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

Text: Public domain

**P** It is not enough to look back at the historical fact of Jesus’ birth; today we celebrate the love God showers on us daily, which we share, and about which we sing in later stanzas of these same hymns.

**LESSON** **1 John 4:7–9, 10–12, 15–16; Titus 2:11–14**

**P** In his First Epistle, John writes,

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.”

**HYMN**

**“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”**

**LSB 359 st. 2**

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

Text: Public domain

**P** John continues,

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.”

**HYMN**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**LSB 357 sts. ref, 7**

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Public domain

**P** And John concludes,

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

**HYMN**

**“Savior of the Nations, Come”**

**LSB 332 st. 7**

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

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**PART 2, LESSON 4**

**P** Paul writes to Titus and us:

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.”

**HYMN****“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

LSB 361 sts. 3-4

3 How silently, how silently  
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
 So God imparts to human hearts  
 The blessings of His heav'n.  
 No ear may hear His coming;  
 But in this world of sin,  
 Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
 The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
 Descend to us, we pray;  
 Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
 Be born in us today.  
 We hear the Christmas angels  
 The great glad tidings tell;  
 O come to us, abide with us,  
 Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Public domain**SERMON****“What’s In a Name?”****Matthew 1:21***Stand***NICENE CREED**

**C** I believe in one God,  
 the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth  
 and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the only-begotten Son of God,  
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
 God of God, Light of Light,  
 very God of very God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 being of one substance with the Father,  
 by whom all things were made;  
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
 and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
 He suffered and was buried.  
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
 and ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** God entered human history in the person of Jesus, who experienced all our joys and sorrows. He has promised that our heavenly Father will hear whatever we ask in His name. Let us bring our requests to Him in confident faith.

Wonderful Counselor, we pray that You will give empathy, wisdom, and compassion to all who seek to meet the needs of the people around them, providing food, clothing, and shelter, tending to the sick and injured, and responding to human crises and natural disasters. Remember, we pray, those with special needs and those known only to You. As You give us opportunity, grant that we may be part of Your answers to their petitions.

Mighty God, whose Word created all things in heaven and on earth, when storms rage, fires spread, or the earth trembles, give courage and skill to those who would provide rescue, relief, and shelter. Bless those who till the soil and raise crops and all who manage and distribute the world's bounty, that the hungry be fed, the poor clothed, and the displaced given shelter.

Gracious God, receive our plea;

**C** **hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.**

**P** Everlasting Father, shower Your grace on all families, enabling parents and children to grow in faith and love. In neighborhoods, communities, and cities where there is discord, open doors of peace; where there is discrimination, provide justice; where there is loneliness, provide companionship. Bless individuals and organizations to use the talents and resources You provide to restore dignity, health, and peace to everyone in their care.

Gracious God, receive our plea;

**C** **hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.**

**P** Prince of Peace, use the earthly powers that be to put into positions of authority those who will work for justice within their nations and cooperation across their borders. Give protection and courage to police and first responders in their communities and to armed forces deployed. Where wars threaten, move leaders to seek calm; where long-term animosity gives rise to fear and hatred, open avenues of communication and understanding. Grant that Your Church stand as a beacon in this troubled world to proclaim the Gospel and exhibit loving forgiveness in Your name. Grant that many find the peace they seek in You, our gracious Savior.

Gracious God, receive our plea;

**C** **hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.**

**P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**SACRAMENT**

## PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

LSB 161

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into time and space as You had promised. He has borne our sin and become our Savior. Gathered in the name of Jesus, we ask, O Lord, that You forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Gather us together with all Your saints on that day when we join them at the eternal banquet, which we anticipate in this foretaste of the feast to come. To You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be all praise and glory, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:



## LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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.

## PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

LSB 364

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Public domain

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain  
Text: Public domain

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”**

**LSB 386**

1 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;  
Through 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!

4 Oh, where shall joy be found?  
Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing  
In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there!  
Oh, that we were there!  
Text: Public domain

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

**LSB 393**

1 Infant holy,  
Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;

Oxen lowing,  
Little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging,  
Angels singing,  
Bells are ringing,  
Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping,  
Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory,  
Heard the story,  
Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing,  
Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing,  
Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Public domain

## CANDLELIGHTING

### HYMN

### “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

LSB 366 sts. 1, 4

1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass  
By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years  
Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth  
God’s ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

### HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 2:8–17 (KJV)**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore

afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### HYMN

### “Silent Night, Holy Night”

LSB 363 sts. 1–3

1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Public domain

### COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

**C** Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;

**P** through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** 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.

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