



**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25, 2019**  
**10:00am**

**INTRODUCTION**

*On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**                      **“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”**      # 288 ELW  
(please stand on the last verse)

**CHRISTMAS DIALOG**

God of unimaginable love, on the first Christmas You became one of us.

**We celebrate Your love for every person in every place and time.**

God of all humanity, You offered Your Peace to anyone who would be satisfied with Your presence.

**We celebrate Your Peace in Your Church and accept Your commission to share it in all the world.**

God of the shepherds, You announced Your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble.

**We celebrate Your good news to each of us and to everyone, right here where we are.**

God of the manger, You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place.

**We celebrate Your presence with us this day in this small place made glorious by Your being in it.**

God of birth, when You became as we are, You opened Yourself to each of us,

no matter who or what we are.

**We celebrate this day Your Kingdom and that we are welcome in it right now and always. Keep us close, now and in the life to come.**

God of Christmas, bless us as we once again celebrate Your coming into Your creation.

**Amen. Alleluia!**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

*Silence for self reflection*

Merciful God,

**we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.**

Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of † Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Joy to the world!

**Our Lord Jesus has come! We welcome you, little king, as you reign in this world. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**PSALM Psalm 108:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make melody. Awake, my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.**

<sup>3</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to you among the nations.

<sup>4</sup>**For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**HYMN:**

**“Love Has Come”**

**#292 ELW**

*Please Stand*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, you come among us in Christ Jesus. Grant to your whole church the humility to recognize our sinfulness, and direct us to work toward unity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all the earth, all of creation rejoices in you. Endow us with wisdom to care for all that you have made as we give thanks for the beautiful intricacy of your creative work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O Lord, you love mercy and justice. Grant to the leaders of all nations good judgment that leads them to work for justice, peace, and equality for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you promise to be with us always. Make your comforting presence known to new parents, families, those who live alone, those who are sick, those who are hungry, and all who grieve (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, with the shepherds you call us to not be afraid. Free us from our fears so that we share the great joy of your love with everyone. Bless our ministries to the wider community (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Gracious God, you guard the lives of the faithful and you have revealed your love to us through the lives of your saints (*especially*). Inspired by their witness, embolden us to share your love in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.** *Please be seated*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

**“Joy To The World”**

**#267 ELW**

**OFFERING**

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.  
Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God,

**you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!  
All are welcome! (Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Emmanuel, God with us,

**you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✝ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**        **“Angels We Have Heard on High”**        #289 ELW

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere

**Thanks be to God.**

*Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.*

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Digital Hymnal                      Greeters: George & Kathy Larson

Ushers: 8:30am Skip & Lynn Hansen

*Thank you for your service!*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!** All are welcome to stay and enjoy a Christmas meal together immediately following today's worship service.

**ONE SERVICE** only one service on Sundays, at 9:00am, from now until Easter 2020.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (continued)

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** When you see your loved ones this holiday season, invite the kids ages 4 – 5th grade to Vacation Bible School June 15-19, 2020. Sixth graders and older are welcome as student leaders.

**MILLE LACS HOMEMAKERS** If you're looking for fun, fellowship and an opportunity to make a difference in our community, please consider joining. Beginning in September the club regularly meets the second Wednesday of the month from fall to spring. Much of the club's focus is on donations to area nursing homes, but we also support many community organizations. Please contact Shirley Gosselin at 320-676-8356 for more information.

**MONTHLY TITHING** With the loss of one service this month due to bad weather, our donations are down. For your convenience we have direct deposit applications in the office. You can sign up indefinitely or sign up for a few months if you're going south for the winter.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2020 are here! Please pick up your envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

**TREE TAKE DOWN** will be Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 10:00 am.

**POINSETTIAS** Please take your poinsettia home after service today if you ordered one.

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***BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE ON THIS  
WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS MORNING.  
GO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS—  
CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!!***

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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## POINSETTIA Donations



### Name

Marilyn Andrews  
Carol Bakken  
Pat Becker  
Char & Roy Berg  
Judie Birk  
Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau  
Jeannine Bruesewitz  
Chuck & Elsa Carlson  
Lee & Barb Forrester  
Del & Dianne Jones  
Merrily Jones  
Ron & Arty Heins  
Darrell Kelly  
Craig & Pat Kullberg  
Katherine Larson  
Shirley Moe  
Keith & Dorothy Munding  
Pastor James Muske  
Al & Sue Samuelson  
Jenny Schuett  
Penny Sjoquist  
George & Patti Smith  
Dave & Joanne Stueven  
Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy  
Mary Swanson  
Sylvia Tapelt  
Randy & Laurina Tofteland  
Mark & Mary Vukelich

### In Memory/Honor of

Dave & Family  
Family  
Jerry  
Parents  
Family & Friends  
LuAnn  
Darwin  
Family  
Family  
Deployed Guards  
Husband & Parents  
Family  
Family & Friends  
Audrey & Family  
Hagelin & Larson Families  
Husband & Family  
Loved Ones  
Family  
Family  
Dennis & Loved Ones  
Family  
Family  
Our Families  
Family  
Del & Jenny  
Family  
In Honor of Our Family  
Memory of our Grandfathers



Bev Wedig  
Judy Wuorio

Al, Jen & Travis  
Family

*Thank you to those who have made donations for the  
beautiful flowers to decorate our sanctuary!*