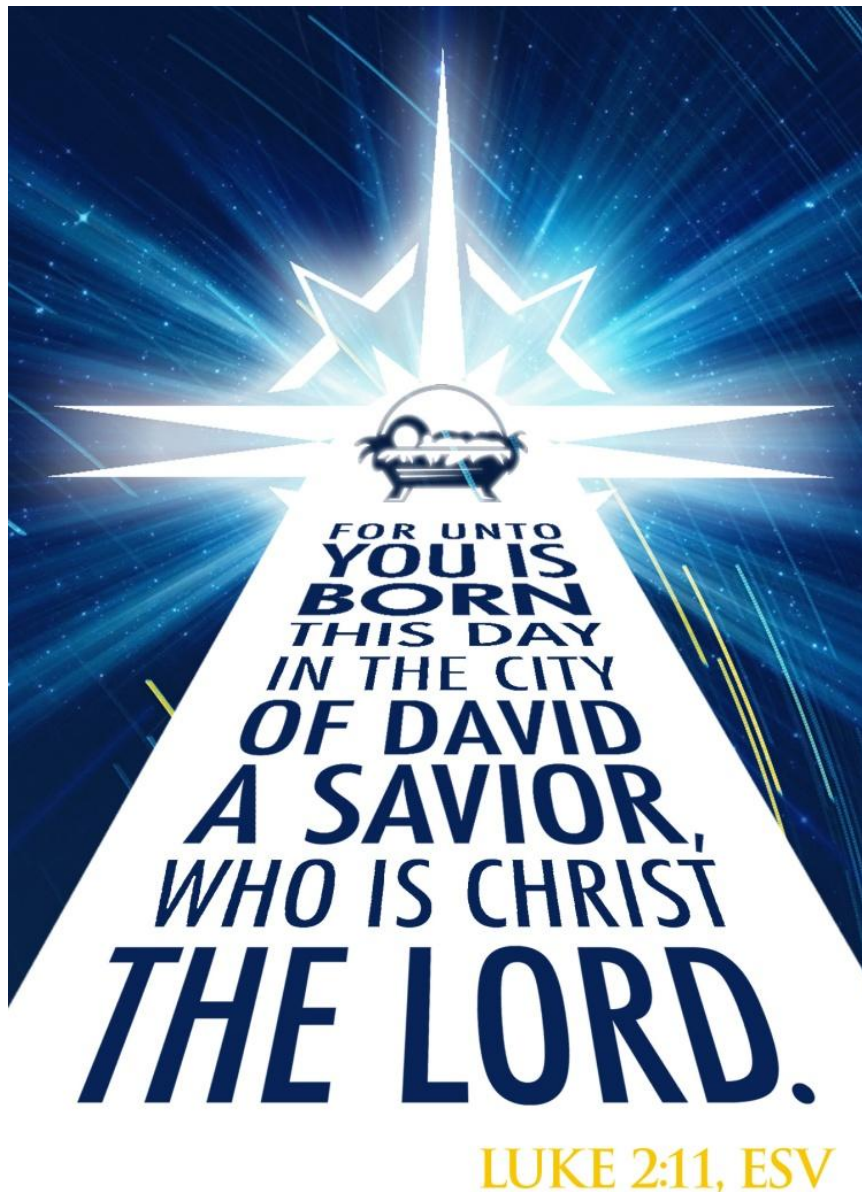


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**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
December 25, 2020



*Please feel free to participate further in this modified service  
by reading aloud the lines in bold marked for congregational participation*

**INVOCATION**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**† Confession and Absolution †**

Pastor: Recalling our sin and God’s mercy, let us examine our lives and consciences.

*Silence for self-examination*

**People: I confess to God Almighty, and before the whole company of heaven, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

*(In Service Absolution)*

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

**† Service of the Word †**

**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,  
Bell 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!**

**HYMN OF PRAISE “The People That in Darkness Sat” vs. 1 & 4 LSB 412**

**1 The people that in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long  
In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.**

**4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.**

## **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Word of God made flesh of the Virgin, full of grace and truth,

**People: grow Your light in the hearts and minds of Your people so that we are filled with Your Word by faith and are reborn by Your power as the children of God;**

Pastor: whom with the Father and the Son You are one God and one Lord, both now and forevermore.

**People: Amen**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

<sup>7</sup> How 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.”

<sup>8</sup> The 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.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

*Titus 2:11-14*

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 2:1-20*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

## **PART ONE**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**HYMN**

**“Away in a Manger” vs. 1-2**

**LSB 364**

## **PART TWO**

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<b>HYMN</b>	<b>“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” vs. 1 &amp; 3</b>	<b>LSB 380</b>
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## **PART THREE**

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

<b>HYMN</b>	<b>“Go Tell it on the Mountain” vs. 1 &amp; 3</b>	<b>LSB 388</b>
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## **PART FOUR**

<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” LSB 358  
vs. 1-3, 14-15**

**SERMON**

**“The Privilege of Joy”**

*Luke 2:8-20*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the faith to greet the news of the Word made flesh with joy and peace, for the obedience of faith to walk in the light of His ways, for the strength to be steadfast in this faith, and for speedy feet to proclaim this message to the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For voices to proclaim faithfully the Word of God, for listening ears that we grow in knowledge and faith by the preaching of the Word, for those who deliver to us the Means of Grace in which we behold God's glory and receive it with joy and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Church, here and throughout the world, for every place where the Word has planted hope and displayed God's saving glory to the nations, and for the homes in which we teach this Word to our children and live it out in holy lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace in the world, for an end to violence, for the restoration of hope and lives still suffering from the effects of the pandemic, for justice, for the will to protect life from its beginning to its natural end, and for those in need, let us pray of the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to believe the Word we hear, for repentant hearts to receive worthily the grace of Christ's body and blood in this Holy Communion, for our strong unity in doctrine, and for our harmony in our life together as the Body of Christ, the Church, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who suffer any need of body or soul, for the sick, for the aged, for the grieving, and for those in their last days, that the Lord be their healing, strength, comfort, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the saints who endured in the holy confession of Your name, for the martyrs whose sacrifice inspires us still, and for all the saints who rest from their labors, that we join them on that promised day when Christ shall join the faithful as one in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His kingdom without end, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**



Pastor: For all things needful to this body and life and for all things profitable to our salvation, let us pray in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh, in whom we behold the glory of the eternal Trinity, now and to the end of the ages.

**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## **CLOSING COLLECT**

Pastor: Almighty God, Creator of all things, we give You all our thanks that on this day You gave Your Word in flesh to be our Savior and Redeemer. Clear our vision always to see His glory and give us ears to hear His voice so that we are forever tied up in His glory, light, and joy unto everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born!

People: **Christ the Savior is born indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN	“Joy to the World”	LSB 387
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## SENDING

Pastor: Go in Peace; serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Let  
Heaven  
&  
Nature  
Sing!