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**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, December 25, 2020  
Christmas Day**

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" LBW 45** (Text and tune: Public Domain)

**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:**

*Refrain: Oh, come let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,*

**Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal.**

**Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!** *Refrain:*

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exaltation,**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest:** *Refrain:*

**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:*

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P:** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

**P:** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In him was life, and the life was the light of man.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" LBW 71** (Text and tune: Public domain)

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,**

**And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.**

*Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?**

**What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?** *Refrain:*

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;**

**Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.** *Refrain:*

**P:** Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 52:7-10, *Heralds announce God's salvation*

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.

**P:** The word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God!**

**SECOND LESSON:** Hebrews 1:1-12, *God has spoken by a son*

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." <sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." <sup>10</sup>And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, <sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

**P:** The word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL:** John 1:1-18, *The word became flesh*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.      **C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.      **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” LBW 44** *(Text and tune: Public domain)*

**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!**

**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!**

*Prayers and intercessions are said by the pastor. In concluding the prayers the pastor says:*

**P:** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**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.**

**P:** Holy God, In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary,  
to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,  
he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection,  
we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,  
that, held and nourished by you,

we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church both now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**P:** The gifts of God for the people of God.

**C: Amen**

*After all have returned to their places, the congregation stands and the minister continues.*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray. We give you thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **BLESSING**

**P:** May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

**C: Amen**

**P:** May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

**C: Amen**

**P:** May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

**C: Amen**

**P:** And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son +, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**DISMISSAL HYMN: "Joy to the World" LBW 39**      *(Text and tune: Public domain)*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth, receive its 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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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.**

We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office. To God be the glory!

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