



Christmas 2

January 2, 3, 4, 2021

Worship Focus

*How come so many people then and now miss the point of Christmas?
The real Jesus reveals and gives himself only through his Word.*

THE SERVICE for TODAY

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn – 55 v. 1-3

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**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.**

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.**

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.**

Refrain

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711-86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.

P: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unending love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

PRAYER of the DAY (spoken together)

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

The Word

First Lesson

Micah 52:1-6

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will come the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from ancient times, from eternity.” ³Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. ⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵This one will be their peace.

Psalm of the Day – 148 (sing refrains, speak verses responsively)

Refrain

For - ev - er let us sing the good - ness of the Lord.

Praise the LORD from the heavens,*
praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels,*
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,*
praise him, all you shining stars.

Refrain

Praise the LORD from the earth,*
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,*
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,*
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,*
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

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Second Lesson

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says: I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise. ¹³And again: I will trust in him. And again: Here I am and the children God has given me.

¹⁴Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) ¹⁵and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. ¹⁷For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Alleluia. (Psalm 98:3b)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

John 7:40-43

⁴⁰After hearing his words, some of the people said, "This is truly the Prophet." ⁴¹Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Surely the Christ does not come from Galilee, does he?" ⁴²Doesn't the Scripture say that the Christ comes from David's descendants and from the little town of Bethlehem where David lived?" ⁴³So the people were divided because of him.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

86 The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by
2 Oh, time of God ap - point - ed, Oh, bright and
3 A - wak - en, Lord, our spir - it To know and
4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you With God the



an - cient seers, By God the Fa - ther giv - en,
ho - ly morn! He comes, the King a - noint - ed,
love you more, In faith to stand un - shak - en,
Ho - ly Ghost And Je - sus, we a - dore you,



In hu - man form ap - pears. No sphere his
The Christ, the vir - gin - born, Grim death to
In spir - it to a - dore, That we, through
O Pride of an - gel host. Be - fore you



light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly
con - quer for us, To o - pen heav'n be -
this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en
mor - tals low - ly Cry "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As he, our Morn - ing Star.
fore us And bring us life a - gain.
prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.
ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text: Elizabeth Cruciger, c. 1500–35, abr., st. 1-3; *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Minneapolis, 1978, st. 4;
tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.

Tune: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN (76 76 776) *Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein*, Erfurt, 1524, alt.

God's Son Became Like We Are

ATHANASIAN CREED (Part 2)

P: It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

C: Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

Men: He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father,

Women: and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,

All: 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;

P: 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;

Men: one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

Women: for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

All: 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.

P: At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.

Men: Those who have done good will enter eternal life,

Women: but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

All: This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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 Hymn – 36 v. 1, 2, 4, 5

A Great and Mighty Wonder

**A great and mighty wonder, A glorious mystery:
A virgin bears an infant Who veils his deity.**

Refrain:

Repeat the hymn again:

“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

**The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.**

Refrain

**Since all he comes to ransom, By all be he adored,
The infant born in Beth’em, The Savior and the Lord.**

Refrain

**All idols then shall perish And Satan’s lying cease,
And Christ shall raise his scepter, Decreeing endless peace.**

Refrain

Text: Germanus, c. 634-734; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.





SERVING US TODAY

Preacher – Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel

Organist – Dee Ann Techlin