



Christmas 1

December 26, 2021

WORSHIP FOCUS

In the family of believers, it is our brother Jesus who changed the future for Abraham's descendants. To be about the Father's will meant sharing in our humanity and destroying the power of death.

Service Of Word And Sacrament p.26

Opening Hymn – 355

Let All Together Praise Our God

**Let all together praise our God
Before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav'n again
And gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.**

**He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.**

**He veils in flesh his pow'r divine
A servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must pine
Who heav'n and earth did make,
Who heav'n and earth did make.**

**He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us his realm,
His glory, and his name, his glory, and his name.**

**He serves that I a lord may be-
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need, To help me in my need?**

**For us he opens wide the door
Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay, To God our thanks we pay.**

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: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**
- P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**

Prayer and Praise

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

- P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



- P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



- P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O Lord, Our Lord

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer Of The Day

P: Let us pray together the prayer of the day...

All: Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through 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

Isaiah 50:4-9

⁴The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue, so I know how to sustain the weary with a word. He wakes me up morning by morning. He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned.

⁵The LORD God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back. ⁶I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my

cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit. ⁷The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced. Therefore I have made my face hard like flint. I know that I will not be put to shame. ⁸The one who will acquit me is near! Who can accuse me? Let us take our stand. Who can pass judgment on me? Let him approach me. ⁹Look, the LORD God will help me. Who then can declare me guilty? Look, all of them will wear out like a garment. A moth will consume them.

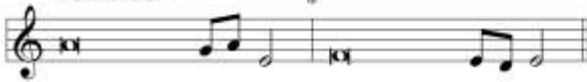
Psalm 84 (sung responsively)

Refrain



Let us go re-joic - ing to the house of the Lord.

Psalm tone



How lovely is your dwelling place,*
O LORD Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,*
for the courts of the LORD.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;*
they are ever praising you.

Refrain

Better is one day in your courts*
than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God*
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

O LORD Almighty,*
blessed are they who trust in you.

**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

¹⁰ Certainly 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. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹² He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

¹³ And again: I will trust in him. And again: Here I am and the children God has given me.

¹⁴ Therefore, 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) ¹⁵ and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. ¹⁷ For 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. ¹⁸ Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Verse Of The Day

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia.
(Colossians 3:15a)

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

Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. ⁴³ When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" ⁵⁰ They did not understand what he was telling them.

⁵¹ He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Hymn of the Day – 349

A Great and Mighty Wonder

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

Refrain:

**Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth."**

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

Refrain

While thus they sing your monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands.

Refrain

Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The infant born in Bethl'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.

Sermon

Hebrews 2:10-18

Let's Take a Look at Our Baby Brother

Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

WE BELIEVE in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

WE BELIEVE in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

“Gloria”

A Carol Setting for Holy Communion

The Preface *(Angels We Have Heard On High)*

Pastor: May the good Lord be with you.
Lift your hearts to God in praise.

Cong: **May the Lord be with you too.
To the Lord our hearts we raise.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!**

**In the Word of God made flesh –
Great and wondrous mystery –
Now we see with vision fresh
God’s abundant majesty
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!**

**Therefore with the church on earth
And the hosts of heav’n above
Let us praise His name, whose birth
Brings us to eternal love.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!**

The Lord’s Prayer *Pastor and People*

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.

The Consecration *(From Heaven Above)*

Cong: **The night Lord Jesus was betrayed
He took the bread, and when he’d prayed,
He broke and gave them of the bread
And unto his disciples said:**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Cong: Then, when the sacred meal was o'er,
Our blessed Savior spoke once more:
He offered thanks, and lifted up,
To give us all, the blessed cup:**

P: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Agnus Dei (Congregation, same melody)

**O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sin release:
Have mercy on us? Grant us peace!**

The Distribution

For our Visitors: "May I receive the Lord's Supper here today?"

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we offer you a hearty welcome. We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting our congregation for the first time, you may find that we regard Holy Communion with far greater seriousness than you may be accustomed to. Holy Communion means just that, a holy communion with our loving God and each other. In this Sacrament we express our perfect union or oneness in faith and Biblical doctrines. For this reason we only offer the Sacrament to members of our congregation and other WELS and ELS congregations. We ask others to please wait until you have had a chance to compare your beliefs with what the Bible teaches and can openly express your oneness with us. Please speak with one of the pastors to set up an appointment.

Distribution Hymn 330

Peace Came to Earth

**Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed his might—
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!
Who could but sing: Immanuel!**

**And who could be the same for having held
The infant in their arms and later felt
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!
Who could but shout: Immanuel!**

**You show the Father none has ever seen,
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine you visit us again—
Who could but see: Immanuel!
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!**

**How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel!
Who could but praise: Immanuel!**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008 ©1984 Concordia Publishing House.
Music: Richard Jeffrey, B. 1952; arr. Mark Kellner, 1959-2015, alt. ©2000 MorningsStar Music Publishers, Inc.

The Thanksgiving *(God Rest You Merry)*

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,
 What He has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
 And proudly bear His name
Who leads His thankful people forth
 His promises to claim.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
 Comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**Lord, let Your servant go in peace,
 Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work
 Which for the world You willed:
The glory of your chosen race
 As Light for all revealed.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
 Comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

Oh, praise to God the Father,
And praise to God the Son,
And praise to God the Spirit,
Most blessed Three in One,
As 'twas, is now, and e'er shall be
While endless ages run!
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

The Benediction (*Angels We Have Heard on High*)

Pastor: May the good Lord bless and keep,
Cause His face on you to shine,
Look on you with favor deep,
Granting you His peace divine.

Cong: GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

"Gloria!", a setting for Holy Communion was written by Arden W Mead © 1985
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Let All Together Praise our God: Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

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SERVING US TODAY

Preacher – Pastor Thomas W. Kneser

Organist – Jean Kaldunski