

**December 25, 2020 – Christmas Day**

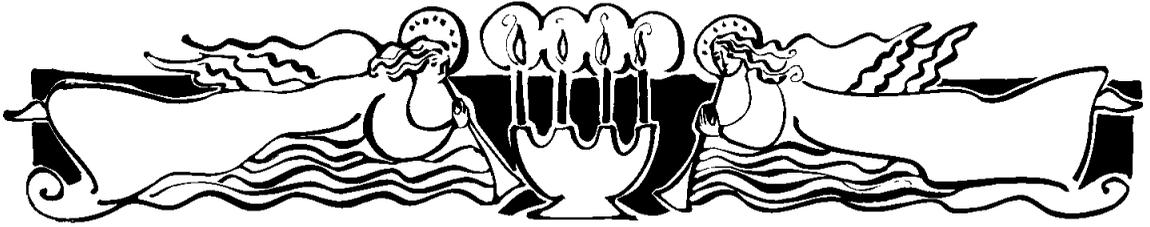
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# The Nativity Of Our Lord

## —December 25—

### How to prepare my heart for prayer and worship

When you enter the church, and finally have a time and place carved out of your busy life to quiet your soul and approach the King of souls, don't rush. Treat your heart tenderly, and let all its momentum exhaust itself within you as you sit/kneel quietly before God's altar. Keep your eyes shut, head bowed and hands still, so you can wait for the whirlwind within you to calm.

Then, when you are still - in body and soul - ask the Lord to open your heart a little wider than it was, so there is room for Him to enter in. Picture broadening your soul within you as you call on Him to bring His presence to bear upon you. And then continue to pray asking for the Holy Spirit to stir within you those deep prayers that He knows you need to utter. Pray them. Send them up to Him on the throne - to His altar. Give them over to Him, and see them leave you and become His own. Reflect on what's beneath them, and give these things to your King also.

Close your eyes. Picture Baby Jesus lying in the manger. Now slowly zoom out from Him. Notice how everything is drawn in towards Him. Things up in heaven. Things down on earth. Shepherds out in the field. Parents right by His side. Everything is bending in towards this Word made flesh. Now zoom in again slowly. There is a spot empty. Right at His side. Its for you. He wants you there. Head there as you keep your eyes on Him. He looks at you. You are kneeling now at His side. He gazes up at you. And you just kneel there breathing. Finally, you are home.

# Divine Service Setting One

## Processional Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.
- ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

## Confession and Absolution

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**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done**

**and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **✝** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** **Amen.**

## **Service of the Word**

### **Introit**

The people who walked in | darkness\*  
have seen a | great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep | darkness,\*  
on them has | light shined.  
The LORD reigns; he is robed in | majesty;\*  
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.  
Yes, the world is es- | tablished;\*  
it shall nev- | er be moved.  
Your throne is established | from of old;\*  
you are from ever- | lasting.  
Your decrees are very | trustworthy;\*  
holiness befits your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The people who walked in | darkness\*  
have seen a | great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep | darkness,\*  
on them has | light shined.

## Kyrie

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- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

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- A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- C** **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:  
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

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- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- 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.**

## 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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given,\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,\*  
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a | new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things!

## Epistle

*Hebrews 1:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>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."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Alleluia and Verse**

**Page 156**

**C** **Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Holy Gospel**

*John 1:1–14*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Hymn of the Day: Angels From the Realms of Glory**

**LSB 367**

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the\_ternal Three in One. Refrain

**Sermon: "Not Like That!"**

## Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

**Hymn: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

**LSB 386**

- 1        Now sing we, now rejoice,  
          Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
          He from whom joy streameth  
          Poor in a manger lies;  
          Not so brightly beameth  
          The sun in yonder skies.  
          Thou my Savior art!  
          Thou my Savior art!
- 2        Come from on high to me;  
          I cannot rise to Thee.  
          Cheer my wearied spirit,  
          O pure and holy Child;  
          Through Thy grace and merit,  
          Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
          Draw me unto Thee!  
          Draw me unto Thee!
- 3        Now through His Son doth shine  
          The Father's grace divine.  
          Death was reigning o'er us  
          Through sin and vanity  
          Till He opened for us  
          A bright eternity.  
          May we praise Him there!  
          May we praise Him there!
- 4        Oh, where shall joy be found?  
          Where but on heav'nly ground?  
          Where the angels singing  
          With all His saints unite,  
          Sweetest praises bringing  
          In heav'nly joy and light.  
          Oh, that we were there!  
          Oh, that we were there!

## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

#### Closing Hymn: See Amid the Winter's Snow

LSB 373

- 1        See amid the winter's snow,  
          Born for us on earth below,  
          See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
          Promised from eternal years. Refrain.
- ref       Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
          Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
          Sing through all Jerusalem:  
          "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
- 2        Lo, within a stable lies  
          He who built the starry skies,  
          He who, throned in height sublime,  
          Sits amid the cherubim. Refrain.
- 3        Sacred Infant, all divine,  
          What a tender love was Thine,  
          Thus to come from highest bliss  
          Down to such a world as this! Refrain.
- 4        Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
          By Thy face so meek and mild,  
          Teach us to resemble Thee  
          In Thy sweet humility. Refrain.