

**M:** 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 peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

**HYMN:** CW 35

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**

#### THANKSGIVING

**M:** Let us pray.

**C:** In peace, Lord, you let your servant now depart according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for every people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

**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. Amen.

**HYMN:** CW 58

**See In Yonder Manger Low**



## The Word Became Flesh Christmas Day Worship

# The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord

HYMN: CW 55

O Come, All Ye Faithful

## INVOCATION

**M:** 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.**

## DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

**M:** To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

**C:** **Oh come, let us adore him!**

**M:** O Lord, the ruler of the ages eternal, you are without beginning or end:

**C:** **Yet you chose to be born an infant in time.**

**M:** O Lord, the invisible, you are the One no one has seen or can see:

**C:** **Yet you assume the face of the son of Mary.**

**M:** O Lord, the all-powerful, you hold the mountains in the palm of your hand:

**C:** **Yet you let yourself be wrapped in the blankets of an infant.**

**M:** O Lord, the universal provider, you feed every creature:

**C:** **Yet you chose to hunger for the milk of your mother.**

**M:** O Lord, the infinite, heaven and earth cannot contain you:

**C:** **Yet you rest in the arms of Mary.**

**M:** O Lord, the perfect joy, you are the source of happiness for heaven and earth:

**C:** **Yet you cry like a little child.**

**M:** O Lord, the eternal Word, you are the light of all created intelligence

**M:** On this Christmas Day, we lift our hearts to the Lord who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in sending his Son at the appointed time to fulfill the eternal plan of salvation by dying and rising for us and has returned to reign over all things until he comes again in glory on the Last Day.

**Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**M:** Holy Father, in the beginning, you spoke and created light. But we loved the darkness of sin and unbelief. When the time had fully come, you sent your Son to be a light for those walking in darkness and in the shadow of death.

We praise you and give you thanks that Jesus, the eternal Word, became flesh and made his dwelling among us; that born of a woman, born under law, he lived without sin as our substitute; that as the Lamb of God, he suffered and died to take away the sin of the world; that he rose from death and lives forever to proclaim peace to all.

As the shepherds came to the manger, we now approach your altar with reverent joy. Here we find our Savior, Christ the Lord, who gives us his body and blood for forgiveness and peace. Through this meal, bring us life and light.

**C:** **Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M:** 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."

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- M:** O Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...
- C:** **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 SACRAMENT

- M:** On this Christmas Day, we give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for sending his one and only Son to share our humanity, to carry our guilt, and to become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

*After a brief introduction the congregation sings...*

**Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart made clean and new,  
A quiet chamber kept for you.**

- M:** On this Christmas Day, we gather to be nourished with Word and Sacrament through which the Holy Spirit gives us strength to overcome Satan's power and pride.

**My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradle song;**

- C:** **Yet you are laid in a manger and cannot even speak.**

- M:** O Lord, we confess that we do not deserve the magnificence of your love for we have not loved one another as you desire. We daily sin much in all that we say, think, and do.

- C:** **Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for the sake of your great love. Deliver and restore us that we may find true peace.**

- M:** You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. I say to you, therefore, what Christ himself says: Your sins are forgiven

- C:** **Thanks be to God!**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Brief introduction precedes the song*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
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 heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yolk of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C:** **Amen.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

**M:** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C:** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**Psalm 98** *Sung responsively with the pastor*

### SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

**M:** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C:** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**HYMN:** CW 38 (verses 1-4, 7-8) **From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

### SERMON

John 1:1-14

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed

It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe  
that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.  
Now this is the true Christian faith.

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,  
is both God and man.  
He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and  
he is man, born in time  
from the nature of his mother, 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;  
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;  
one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one  
person;  
for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,  
so God and man are one Christ.  
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.  
This is the true Christian faith.

### OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of  
great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your  
prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our  
Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**C:** **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

**M:** What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become  
fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful  
Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

**C:** **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our  
substitute to be our Savior.**

**M:** In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our  
world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them for-  
giveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good  
news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also  
make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell  
others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

**C:** **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind  
may comfort all people.**

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our  
praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas re-  
mains in our hearts.

**C:** **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**