

December 25, 2025 – Christmas Day

AS WE GATHER

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are all about Jesus' birth. In fact, there are appointed readings for Christmas Eve, Christmas Midnight, Christmas Dawn, and Christmas Day. Christmas Eve focuses on the birth of Jesus, Christmas Midnight and Dawn focus on the birth of Jesus and the announcement to the shepherds, and Christmas Day focuses on who Jesus, the Word-made-flesh, is according to John chapter 1. This morning, our Old Testament reading is the epilogue (Isaiah 54) to the fourth Servant Song which we heard last night. Verse 1 reads, "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married." Yes, sing! For the Servant of the LORD, namely, Jesus Christ, has been born! He has been born to suffer and die for you. He has been born to rise for you. He has been born to make you new. This morning, we sing and rejoice, because the Servant who was born of a virgin in Bethlehem has come even for you and for me.

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 374, "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"*

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
People: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: We take a moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,
People: **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
People: **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
People: **O come, let us worship Him!**

HYMN *LSB 358, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," stanzas 1-3*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Pastor: And the angel said to [the shepherds], "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (*Luke 2:10-12*)

Pastor: The Christ has come!
People: **The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

Pastor: For unto you is born this day a Savior,
People: **He is Christ our Lord!**

Pastor: This Christ Child, our Savior, was born with a mission.
People: **He was born to suffer and die for us.**

Pastor: This morning, as we sing for joy that Christ was born to suffer and die in order to save us, we light the Christ candle, remembering that Christ is the Light of the world, the Light no darkness can overcome.

(The Christ candle is lit)

People: **Christ is our Light.**

HYMN *LSB 358, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," stanzas 6, 14-15*

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 54*

¹ "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the Lord. ² "Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. ³ For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities. ⁴ "Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. ⁵ For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. ⁶ For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. ⁷ For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. ⁸ In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer. ⁹ "This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. ¹⁰ For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you. ¹¹ "O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires. ¹² I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones. ¹³ All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the

peace of your children.¹⁴ In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.¹⁵ If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you.¹⁶ Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy;¹⁷ no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.”

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING *Luke 2:1–14*

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

RESPONSORY

Pastor: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

People: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Pastor: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

People: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

People: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

HYMN *LSB 368, "Angels We Have Heard on High"*

SERMON *"Sing! The Servant is Born!"*

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 785, "We Praise You, O God"*

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray. ... Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Finally, taught by Your Son Jesus Christ and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

All: **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.**

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *LSB 387, "Joy to the World"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Service adapted from Matins found in LSB 219-228. Confession and absolution from Divine Service Setting Five, LSB 213-214.