

**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
**December 25, 2023**

**370 What Child Is This**

- 1 **What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**
- 2 **Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**
- 3 **So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98  
Text: Public domain

- 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.**  
**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.

**C** **Amen.**

**Introit**

*Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

For 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.**  
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**  
The LORD has made known his salvation;  
**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**  
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
**break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**  
**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.**  
For 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.**

**Kyrie**

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**A** 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.**  
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**

**380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;

With the\_angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the\_incarate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. Refrain

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**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*

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

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

### Gradual

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

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 Reading

*Hebrews 1:1–12*

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

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

### Alleluia and Verse

**C** **Alleluia.**

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

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

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Holy Gospel Reading

*John 1:1–14*

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

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

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

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

### 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming**  
**From tender stem hath sprung!**  
**Of Jesse's lineage coming**  
**As prophets long have sung,**  
**It came, a flow'ret bright,**  
**Amid the cold of winter,**  
**When half-spent was the night.**

2 **Isaiah 'twas foretold it,**  
**The rose I have in mind;**  
**With Mary we behold it,**  
**The virgin mother kind.**  
**To show God's love aright,**  
**She bore to us a Savior,**  
**When half-spent was the night.**

3 **This flow'r, whose fragrance tender**  
**With sweetness fills the air,**  
**Dispels with glorious splendor**  
**The darkness ev'rywhere.**  
**True man, yet very God,**  
**From sin and death He saves us**  
**And lightens ev'ry load.**

4 **O Savior, child of Mary,**  
**Who felt our human woe;**  
**O Savior, King of glory,**  
**Who dost our weakness know:**  
**Bring us at length we pray**

**To the bright courts of heaven,  
And to the endless day.**

Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948  
Text: Public domain

**Sermon “A Proud Parent” Hebrews 1:1-12**

**Nicene Creed**

- C** 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  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayer of the Church**

- P**...Lord, in your mercy:  
**C** Hear our prayer.  
**P**...through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

**Offering**

**Offertory**

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

**Preface**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.  
**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus**

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent ... which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

**Lord’s Prayer**

- P** 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 Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

#### Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**G** Amen.

#### Agnus Dei

**G** **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

#### Distribution

#### Thank the Lord

*LSB 164*

**G** **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev’ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

#### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**G** Amen.

#### Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**G** Amen.

#### 387 Joy to the World

- 1** **Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**
- 2** **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3** **No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4** **He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

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#### Acknowledgments

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