

**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
**December 25, 2020**

- 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.

**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 1:1–6

**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.

### Psalm 2

<sup>1</sup>Why do the nations rage

**and the peoples plot in vain?**

<sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves,

**and the rulers take counsel together,**

**against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,**

<sup>3</sup>“Let us burst their bonds apart

**and cast away their cords from us.”**

<sup>4</sup>He who sits in the heavens laughs;

**the Lord holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup>Then he will speak to them in his wrath,

**and terrify them in his fury, saying,**

<sup>6</sup>“As for me, I have set my King

**on Zion, my holy hill.”**

<sup>7</sup>I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;

**today I have begotten you.**

<sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

**and the ends of the earth your possession.**

<sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron

**and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”**

<sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

**be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear,

**and rejoice with trembling.**

<sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son,

**lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,**

**for his wrath is quickly kindled.**

Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

### Sermon “A Gift under the Tree” John 1:1-14

#### 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 ✝ 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

#### 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.

#### 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.

**C** Amen.

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