



True Christmas Joy

8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
 Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,
 Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
 9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,
 Jotham the father of Ahaz,
 Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
 Manasseh the father of Amon,
 Amon the father of Josiah,
 11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah[c] and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.
 12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
 13 Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,
 14 Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud,
 15 Elihud the father of Eleazar,
 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet [e] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

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AS WE GATHER

The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks, and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. Others in history had to wait a much longer time for their Christmas joy. Approximately seven centuries before “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), Isaiah would be inspired by the Spirit to proclaim to the people, “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” (Isaiah 52:10). Though the people of Isaiah’s day would not experience Christmas as we do, they would hold on by faith to the anticipated promise of salvation through our Savior who was to come. For us, we give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, “The Lord has bared His holy arm” (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

HYMN**ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY****LSB 376**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Once in royal David’s city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.</p> <p>2 He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly
 Lived on earth our Savior holy.</p> <p>3 For He is our childhood’s pattern,
 Day by day like us He grew;
 He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us He knew;
 And He feels for all our sadness,
 And He shares in all our gladness.</p> | <p>4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 Through His own redeeming love;
 For that child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in heav’n above;
 And He leads His children on
 To the place where He is gone.</p> <p>5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
 With the oxen standing by
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
 Set at God’s right hand on high.
 Then like stars His children, crowned,
 All in white, His praise will sound!</p> |
|--|---|

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***INVOCATION**

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 C **Amen.**

*LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

Psalm 100

P On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd.

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

C **Serve the LORD with gladness!**

P Come into His presence with singing!

C **Know that the LORD, He is God!**

P It is He who made us, and we are His;

C **we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C **and His faithfulness to all generations.**

The candles are lit.

*OPENING SENTENCES

John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10

P In the beginning was the Word,

C **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

P In Him was life,

C **and the life was the light of men.**

P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C **and the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

P and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

C **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

John 1:4–5; Isaiah 52:10

- P Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.
- C **We are 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.**
- P John writes in our Gospel lesson, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.
- C **Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.**
- P For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
- C **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 be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**
- P The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
- C **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

*KYRIE

LSB 186

- C **Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER

LSB 383

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 1 | A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! Refrain | 2 | The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. Refrain |
| ref | Proclaim the Savior’s birth:
“To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!” | 3 | While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain |

4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord. Refrain

5 All idols then shall perish
And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

Text: Public domain

***SALUTATION**

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

⁷How 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."

⁸The 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.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The 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.
C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Come and Behold Him

by John Chisum and George Searcy
Andrew Koch, soloist

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–12

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For 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”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

¹²like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

*VERSE

John 1:14

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

*HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–18

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

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

LSB 384

SERMON

TRUE CHRISTMAS JOY

ISAIAH 52:7-10

OFFERING

Those who support this church and its ministry by giving electronically are invited to place the "I Give Online" cards located in each pew in the offering plate as a way of participating in this act of worship.

*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**

***HYMN**

O HOLY CHILD OF BETHLEHEM

LSB 361, vs. 4

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Public domain

P Father, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world as an infant, to be our Savior and to forgive our sins.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

***HYMN**

AWAY IN A MANGER

LSB 364, vs. 3

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Public domain

- P Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.
- C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

***HYMN** **AH, DEAREST JESUS, HOLY CHILD** **LSB 358, vs. 13**

- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- P Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.
- C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.**

Additional petitions may follow.

- P All these things we bring before You, through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
- C **Amen.**

***HYMN** **LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD** **LSB 389, vs. 7**

- 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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***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.**

***PROPER PREFACE**

***SANCTUS**—*sung tune LSB 195*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

***PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

- 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.**

***PAX DOMINI**

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

***AGNUS DEI**—*sung tune LSB 198*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION Distribution is at the rail, with both common cup and individual cup; de-alcoholized wine in center of tray. Gluten free wafers available by signifying to pastor/elder. Please use the pew cards to register your attendance at Holy Communion.

HYMN	WHAT CHILD IS THIS?	LSB 370
HYMN	JOY TO THE WORLD	LSB 387
HYMN	HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING	LSB 380

***NUNC DIMITTIS**—*sung tune LSB 198*

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

***POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

***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.**

HYMN TO DEPART **GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN** **LSB 388**

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Serving our Lord

Musician	Diane Streich
Cantor	Andy Koch
Altar Guild	Nancy Strand
Elder	Jon Peterson
Reader	Peter Olsen
Usher Team	Gary Sheets
Greeter	Lynn Kroonblawd
Acolyte	Open
Projection	Peter Olsen
Live Stream	Jim Nicklas



Welcome Guests

We are glad you are here today! Here are a few things we thought you would like to know to help you feel at home with us today. If you are visiting please introduce yourself to our pastor, a greeter or an usher. We love to make new friends!

For those with small children, a nursery is available, located in the narthex, if you need a place to care for your child. Children’s bulletins are in the narthex, or ask an usher.

Restrooms are located to the east end of the narthex near the main entrance.

Large print copies of the worship folder are available. Please ask an usher.

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. Please speak with our pastor or an elder before communing if this is your first time receiving the Lord’s Supper at TLO. The light-colored wine in the center of the individual communion tray is de-alcoholized wine, where the alcohol is reduced to .05%.



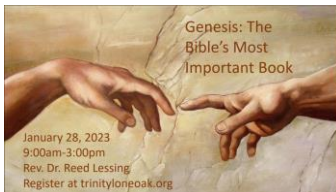
“Wise Men Seek the Savior” — Christmas Activities for Families Wednesday, December 28 | 2:00-4:00pm

Through child-friendly stations, parents and children share in the joy of the season and in the truth of a King and Savior born for them. Bring the young ones in your life to this casual event! Registrations helpful, but not required, on the website or with the church office.



Worship Sunday, January 1 | 9:00am

Note there is only one worship service Sunday, January 1, 9:00am. While there is no Sunday school, Pastor Lessing will be teaching Bible class at 10:00am that’s suitable for any learner! Bring Christmas cookies if you have them, and join the study!



Bible Seminar at TLO

January 28, 2023 | 9am - 3pm

Pastor Lessing leads our annual Bible seminar. This year’s title is “Genesis: The most important book.” Lunch is included. Register with the church office or at trinityloneoak.org.