



**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Farmington Hills, Michigan**

December 25, 2024

The Word Made Flesh Christmas Day

Jesus is the Light of the World

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life. John 8:12*

Opening Hymn 412 The People that in Darkness Sat



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

Text: John Morison, 1749-98, alt.
Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

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

People: Amen.

(four candles and the center candle are lit on the Advent wreath.)

Pastor: Today, we light all the candles on the Advent wreath as we rejoice in Jesus our Savior, the Light of the World. To a world lost in the darkness of sin, Jesus brought the light of love and salvation, a light that we see shining out of the manger in Bethlehem.

People: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus, with the light of your love.

Pastor: Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world. ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

People: Lord Jesus, help us to reflect the light of your love to everyone we meet.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, and ask his forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, even though we should shine with Jesus' light, we often become lost in the shadows of sin. We turn away from your Word and your will to listen to the temptations of the world around us. Instead of seeking to help and serve others, we pay more attention to our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Pastor: God loved the world and sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus died and rose from death for us, and our sins are washed away in his blood. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: Jesus, Light of the World, shine in and through us!

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Lord Jesus, on the first Christmas, light filled the night sky as angels announced your birth to shepherds and sang praise to God. You are the Light of the World, and those who follow you will not walk in darkness. Help us in the power of the Holy Spirit to reflect your light in a world still lost in the darkness of sin. As we bear witness to your love through our words and actions, we pray that others will come to trust in you and to walk in the light of your love. Mighty Lord, hear our prayer and accept our praise.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise LSB 378 Break forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light



1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, And
 2 O dear - est Child, whom I a - dore, Whose
 3 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to Thee, Lord



ush - er in the morn - ing. Ye shep - herds, shrink not
 grace sur - pass - es mea - sure, My Broth - er, whom I
 Je - sus Christ, be giv - en: Thou hast my Broth - er



with af - fright, The day of grace is dawn - ing. This
 cher - ish more Than earth with all its trea - sure: Haste
 deigned to be, Thou Lord of earth and heav - en. Help



Child, though weak in in - fan - cy, Our con - fi -
 from Thy man - ger to de - part, O come and
 me through - out this day of grace To praise Thy



dence and joy shall be, The pow'r of Sa - tan
 dwell with - in my heart; With joy will I re -
 love and seek Thy face; And when I stand be -



break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.
 ceive Thee, A cra - dle there will give Thee.
 fore Thee For - ev - er to a - dore Thee.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67; tr. "Lutheran Hymnal (Australia)", 1973
 Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590-1667
 Text: © 1973 Openbook Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110022518
 Tune: Public domain

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 13:21-22*

²¹And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²²The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle *2 Corinthians 4:5–7*

⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *John 1:1–14*

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

People: Glory be to Thee, 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

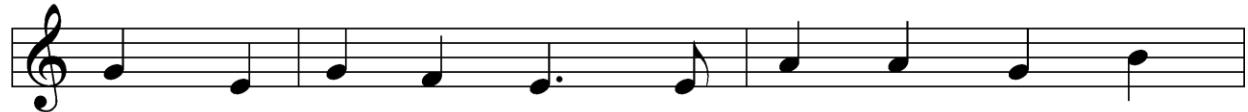
People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

LSB 358 From Heaven above to Earth I come, LSB 358 verses 1,3,5,8,11, 13



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad-dling
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.

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.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valtin Schumann
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Nicene Creed

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.

Offering 956 Create in Me

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12
Text: Public domain

Prayers

People's Response: Lead us to walk in the light of your love.

SACRAMENT

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Pastor: 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; for in the mystery of

the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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 *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

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, 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.

People: Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Pastor: 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."

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

Agnus Dei *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 Hymns

LSB 383, A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
 Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 370, What Child is this?



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98
 Tune: English, 16th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction (John 8:12; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Numbers 6:24-26)

Pastor: Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

People: **God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn LSB 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79
Text and tune: Public domain

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*A very special thank you to those who
offered poinsettia plants for Christmas!*

Ron and Barb Donoghue
George and Lois Donoghue

Mike and Susan Hodgins
In celebration of family and of the season

Ed and Sharon Kaiser

JoAnn Lind
In memory of loved ones

Barbara Moore
In celebration of our Savior's birth

Janet Moriarty
In celebration of our Savior's birth

Rev. Mark and Joan Schumm
In celebration of Kaitlin and Michael

Ted and BettyLou Streit
In celebration of family blessings

Rachel and Joe Svoke

Kurt and Susan Vaaler

Irene Vaslas
In memory of John and Mary Vaslas

Marabeth Warnke
In memory of Gary and Steven Warnke

The Wells Family