



# Good News of Great Joy



The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord

# Christmas Day

**Today's Focus:** What's the best kind of news? Good news that's meant for you. God sent his Son into this world to right what we had wronged and fix what we had broken. Jesus' arrival was heralded to the world as good news meant for every man, woman, and child. He had come as Savior: to live among us, to die in place of us, and to conquer death for us. Be our Guest this Christmas and hear the good news of great joy meant for you.

**Welcome!**

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## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding:  
Organist:

Jonathan Fischer  
Robert Klug

Pastor: Jonathan Fischer  
Principal: Nathan Schultz  
Church Office: Sarah Smith  
School Office: Jill Klug

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*The 10:30 service is livestreamed for our members at home.*



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# 354 O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354

Stand



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come\_ ye to Beth - le - hem!  
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee\_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:  
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

## *Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Dialogue

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.**

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.  
**Our eyes have seen his salvation, which he prepared in the sight of all nations.**

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord,  
**and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.**

Being in very nature God, he did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

**Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.**

God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

# 346 Angels We Have Heard on High

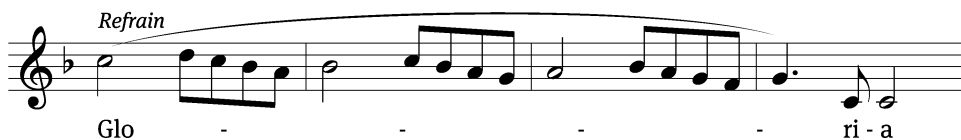
CW 346



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French  
Tune: French  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Word

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

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Micah 5:2–5a*

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 98E Sing a New Song to the LORD

Psalm 98E



1 Sing a new song to the LORD, he to whom won-ders be-  
2 Now to the ends of the earth, see, his sal - va - tion is  
3 Sing a new song and re - joice! Pub - lish his prais - es a -  
4 Join with the hills and the sea thun - ders of praise to pro-



long! Re - joice \_\_\_\_\_ in his tri - umph and tell \_\_\_\_\_ of his  
shown, and still \_\_\_\_\_ he re - mem - bers his mer - cy and \_  
broad! Let voic - es in \_ cho - rus, with trum - pet and \_  
long! In judg - ment and \_ jus - tice he comes \_\_\_\_\_ to the



pow'r! O sing to the LORD a new song!  
truth, un - chang - ing in love to his own.  
horn, re - sound for the joy of the LORD!  
earth. O sing to the LORD a new song!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith

Tune: David G. Wilson

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## Second Reading

*Galatians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

<sup>6</sup>Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*



## Gospel

John 1:1–18

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## 358 Of the Father's Love Begotten

CW 358



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.  
 and ex - tol our God and King.  
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,  
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,  
 Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;  
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,  
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.  
 Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon**

*Space is included for you to take notes during the sermon.*

Stand

## Athanasian Creed

*The Dual Nature of Christ*

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith.

**Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.**

It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh. Now this is the true Christian faith:

**We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.**

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, **Equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;**

And though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one, **One, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;**

One, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; **For just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one in Christ.**

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. **He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.**

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds. **Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.**

This is the true Christian faith.

**Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

**Lord, we praise you.**

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

**Give us faith and courage.**

Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas, grant to them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom.

**Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.**

We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

**Govern and prosper your people.**

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

**Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.**

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

**Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

**We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Offering

*Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today.*

*Please sign the friendship register and pass it down the pew.*

## The Sacrament

*Stand*

### Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### 339 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

CW 339 st. 1

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle  
stall; ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the  
child is Lord of all. Swift - ly wing - ing an - gels  
sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, ti - dings bring - ing: Christ the  
child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

The musical score is written in a single system with five staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff starts with a '1' indicating the beginning of the first line. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

Text: Polish; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.  
Tune: Polish  
Text and tune: Public domain

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**



## 540 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

CW 540 st. 1

1 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild, for  
sin - ners you be - came a child. You came from  
heav - en to ful - fill your Fa - ther's just and  
ho - ly will, O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a "1" indicating the start of the first line. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Text: tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.; Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662, abr.  
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623, alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

Be seated

## Distribution

*Out of sincere love for the truth of God's Word and precious souls, we practice closed Communion in our congregation. This has been the practice of Christians for centuries and is thoroughly scriptural. It neither questions the faith nor judges the heart of any individual, yet expects that there be full doctrinal agreement among those who commune. For this reason, we ask that only members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) join us for the Lord's Supper today. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Fischer after the service.*

### 331 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

CW 331

- 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come  
to bear good news to ev’ry home;  
glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 “To you this night is born a child  
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
this little child of lowly birth  
shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 “This is the Christ, our God most high,  
who hears your sad and bitter cry; he will  
himself your Savior be from all your sins  
to set you free.
- 4 “He will on you the gifts bestow  
prepared by God for all below,  
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,  
you may with us his glory share.
- 5 “These are the signs which you shall  
mark: the swaddling clothes and manger  
dark. There you will find the infant laid  
by whom the heav’ns and earth were  
made.”
- 6 How glad we’ll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
to see what God for us has done  
in sending us his own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
and see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
through whom the sinful world is  
blest! You came to share my misery,  
that you might share your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though you created all,  
how weak you are, so poor and small,  
that you should choose to lay your  
head where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair  
and set with gold and jewels rare,  
it would be far too poor and small  
a cradle for the Lord of all.
- 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.
- 12 And so it pleases you to see  
this simple truth revealed to me:  
that worldly honor, wealth, and might  
are weak and worthless in your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
within my heart, made clean and new,  
a quiet chamber kept for you.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
my lips no more can silence keep.  
I too must sing with joyful tongue  
that sweetest ancient cradle song:

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546  
Text: Public domain

## Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the † Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

### 353 Joy to the World

CW 353



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship

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