



The Saviour is Born

“And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him”

(Matt 2.11)

Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For he has visited and redeemed his people.

**And has raised up a horn of salvation for us,
In the house of his servant David.** *(Luke 1:68-69)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
And we have seen his glory. *(John 1:14)*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven,
and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour 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.

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.

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.

(Isaac Watts, 1719)

Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God’s word tells us:

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* *1 Jn 1:8-10*

Let us therefore confess our sins against God,
and against our neighbour, first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners. Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." (1 Tim 1:15)

Psalm 96: Sing unto the Lord a new song

Sing unto the Lord a new song,
Sing to Him, O all the earth!
Bless the name of God forever;
Sing salvation's wondrous worth.
Tell His glory to the nations;
Of His wonders, anthems raise.
He is Lord of all creation,
Great, and greatly to be praised.

Other gods fade as a vapour;
There is none beside the Lord.
In His dwelling, strength, and splendour,
God exalted and adored.
Give Him glory, all ye people;
Give Him glory due His name.
In His temple, as an off'ring,
All His pow'r and might proclaim.

Worship God in holy beauty;
Bow before His throne in fear.
Now proclaim among the nations
His dominion, ever near.
By His word, the earth was founded,
That it never may be moved;
In His word is justice grounded,
That He righteous may be proved.

Let the heavens shout, rejoicing,
And the earth in joy aflame;
Let the sea in thunder praise Him,
Field and forest now acclaim.
For the Lord, the Lord is coming;
Let the earth resound again!
To His people, He is coming
In His righteousness to reign!

Words: David P. Regier; Music: J. Wyet

Responsive Verses: Isaiah 11:1-9

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, Or decide disputes by what his ears hear;

But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

And he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; And the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever, age after age. Amen!

God's Word

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in Bethlehem (p. 779)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Matt 1:18-2:11 (p. 807)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Saviour is Born (Mark Payne)

Psalm 98: Sing to Yahweh, Sing a New Song

Sing to Yahweh, sing a new song
For the wonders He has done;
His right hand and arm most holy
Have for Him the vict'ry won.
And the Lord revealed His rescue,
His salvation He made known;
In the sight of ev'ry nation
He His righteousness has shown.

He recalled His love for Isr'el,
And to them has faithful been;
When our God sent His salvation,
It around the earth was seen.
unto the Lord with gladness,
All the earth sing joyful praise.
To the Lord with harp make music,
With the harp your voices raise.

With the blast of horn and trumpet,
Shout before the Lord, the King.
Let the sea resound with praises,
Earth, with all its people sing.
Let the rivers in their gladness
Clap their hands with one accord;
Let the mountains sing together
And rejoice before the Lord.

For most surely He is coming,
Judge of all the earth to be.
Justly He will judge the peoples,
And the world with equity.
Sing to Yahweh, sing a new song
For the wonders He has done;
His right hand and arm most holy
Have for Him the vict'ry won.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

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.

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 Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and eternal God,

We thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, and of your word for us.

We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom.

We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory.

Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

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"

*Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

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 incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell

Jesus, our Emmanuel
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

(Lyrics: Charles Wesley; Music: Felix Mendelssohn)

Benediction and Dismissal

Go in peace.

Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.