

Christmas Day

December 25, 2024

Nativity of Our Lord (Year C)

The good news of the arrival of the promised Messiah is a message that changes everything. We celebrate as we recall the moment in time when Jesus was delivered to humanity as an infant laid in a manger. This Word who became flesh altered the course of human life for good. His reign of peace and word of forgiveness are welcome gifts for a people mired in sin and darkness. Hope is born anew!



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Isaiah 52:7-10

Good News is Proclaimed

The prophet brought good news to the people, saying, “Your God reigns!” This news is twofold in this context: both a joyful return from exile and the coming of the Lord’s Messiah. The one who was to come would usher in a reign of peace that all people long for and await with great hope.

Psalm 2

You Are My Son

The psalmist urged the rebellious people surrounding Israel to submit to the Lord. Their resistance against the Lord’s Messiah was futile and would only serve to crush those who were disobedient to the one God. This psalm points to the coming King of Israel: Jesus, the only Son of God.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)

The Complete Message is Spoken

God spoke in former days to his people in many ways, but none of those ways was complete. In these last days, God speaks to his people — not through a prophet or a dream that needs to be interpreted, but through his one and only Son, Jesus.

Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-14 (15-18)

The Light is the Life of All People

Those who believe in Christ, John said, are born of God. It is not the will of humanity nor the desire of the flesh that creates faith in us; instead, it is the holy will of the one who sent the Light of the World into the world to save us. Without this one who is the light, nothing was created and nothing came to exist. All power in heaven and on earth belong to this one who put on flesh and lived among us.

Suggestions for the Day:

- The liturgical color is white.
- The Kyrie and Hymn of Praise may be used during Christmas.
- Use the Nicene Creed.
- Light all four candles on the Advent wreath as well as the Christ candle. Use these words as a prelude to the candle lighting:

L: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. This shall be a sign unto you: You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

C: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.” Amen.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
O Come, All Ye Faithful	45	---	395	308	129	129
A Birth, It Is a Glorious Thing	---	---	---	---	---	web
At the Start There Was the Logos	---	---	---	---	---	web
Of the Father’s Love Begotten	42	---	384	295	120	120
O Word of God Incarnate	231	---	523	514	---	web
What Child is This	40	---	370	296	113	113
Angels We Have Heard on High	71	---	368	289	108	108
Go, Tell it on the Mountain	70	---	388	290	---	web
Bells Are Calling	---	---	---	---	122	122
Break Thou (Now) the Bread of Life	235	---	---	515	85	85

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

- Let Our Gladness Have No End (CCLI #4741855)
- Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger) (CCLI #5601640)
- Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful) (CCLI #7128618)
- Behold the Lamb of God (CCLI #4618782)
- Agnus Dei (CCLI #626713)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.