

Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2025

Christmas Day (Year A)

Christmas worship focuses on the Word who became flesh and lived among us. In him was light and life, and nothing came into being without him. In worship we encounter the very presence of the Lord, who pitched his tent and lived among us. As we gather around the written Word and the Holy Table, we are given the grace to go forward and bear Christ's light to all the world.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10

Crossing the heights of the mountains, a messenger came bringing good news of great joy. This good news proclaimed freedom for Zion and was met with rejoicing and praise for the God who reigned over his people, ushering in salvation and peace.

Psalm 2

The psalmist spoke of the resistance of "the nations" to the rule of God and his anointed Messiah. God's wrath was kindled as rulers and kings conspired to supplant his authority. The king of Zion, the only begotten Son of God, will come to reign.

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

Jesus is the exact imprint of God, greater than the prophets of old through whom God once spoke. Now in these last days, God's Word comes directly to humanity through his Son, who is higher than the angels and sits at the Father's right hand.

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

St. John proclaimed that the Word (*logos*) was with God in the beginning and will exist for all eternity. His coming in human flesh and blood was announced by John the Baptist, who bore witness to this holy Word. Christ himself, born among us to live the life that we live as created beings even though he was not himself created, is the light and life of all people, a light that shatters the darkness of sin and death.

The Lord Returns to Zion

Serve the Lord with Fear

The Firstborn Son

Suggestions for the Day:

- * The liturgical color is white or gold.
- * Use the Nicene Creed.
- * Light the Christ candle as well as the four candles on the Advent wreath.
- * Consider having an elder in the faith community read the Nativity story to the children from a storybook during worship.
- * Read the Incarnational Gospel as a choral reading emphasizing the Word of God that existed in the beginning and through whom all things were made. (See the Christmas Day page on SOWeR for a copy.)

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
At the Start There Was the Logos	---	---	---	---	---	web
O, Come, All Ye Faithful	45	---	379	283	119	119
Joy to the World!	39	---	387	267	123	123
Of the Father's Love Begotten	42	---	384	295	120	120
What Child is This	40	---	370	296	113	113
Angels We Have Heard on High	71	---	368	289	108	108
What Feast of Love	---	701	---	487	---	---
Once in Royal David's City	---	643	376	269	---	---
Go Tell it on the Mountain	70	---	388	290	---	---
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice	144	---	---	288	---	---

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:
Your Name (CCLI# 4611679)
Christmas Offering (CCLI# 7005509)
Born is the King (CCLI# 6089302)
Love Has Come (CCLI# 2060820)
Light of the World (CCLI# 2650577)

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