

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2026

Nativity of Our Lord (Year B)

The birth of Jesus, the Son of God, was a moment in time that changed humanity forever. Through this One, God came to dwell among us as Immanuel, to walk the paths that humans walk and to share in the human experience. This Jesus is fully human and yet no ordinary man; he is the priest foretold by the prophets, the Savior of the nations — love incarnate, sent to rescue us from sin, death, and the devil.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

God Sent a Sign

The Word of the Lord came to King Ahaz, encouraging him to be bold and to ask for a sign from the Lord. Ahaz, in his stubbornness, refused to ask God for a sign, claiming that would be “putting God to the test.” Ahaz discounted the reassurance that the Lord was offering him and continued deeper in his sin by rejecting God’s offer. That sign was nothing less than Immanuel, “God with us.”

Psalm 110:1-4

A Priest Forever

In this psalm we hear the promise of God to bless the kingly line of David. As Christians, we hear it as the union of king and priest in the person of Jesus Christ. Not only was Jesus a descendant of King David, he was also David’s Lord and was anticipated by David.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-16

God Loved Us First

St. John makes it clear that we love only because God has loved us first. God sent Jesus to be the Savior of our lives and the one who grants us forgiveness. The love of God is what empowers us to love like Jesus, sacrificially and unconditionally.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Joseph and Mary Travel to Bethlehem

Even though Mary’s time to deliver her child was very near, she and Joseph had to report to Bethlehem to register for the census. While the couple was in the city of David, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son, Jesus. Some shepherds received the news via angels, and they went to visit the newborn king where he lay in a manger.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White
- Use the Nicene Creed.
- Light all four candles on the Advent wreath as well as the Christ candle.
- Place the baby Jesus in the creche in the nativity scene.
- Hand out individual tapers for the service of light and the singing of “Silent Night” at the end of the worship service.
- We live in a culture that promotes “self love” in order to be able to love others. St. John explains the truth of how we are able to love at all: God first loved us. It is only through the love of the Creator who sent us his one and only Son, that we have any hope of loving others.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Bells Are Calling	---	---	---	---	122	122
O Little Town of Bethlehem	41	---	361	279	115	115
The First Noel	56	---	---	300	121	121
What Child is This	40	---	370	296	113	113
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	60	---	380	270	106	106
A Birth, It Is a Glorious Thing	---	---	---	---	---	web
Away in a Manger	67	---	64	227	110	110
All My Heart This Night Rejoices Once Again	46	---	118	273	118	118
Silent Night	65	---	363	281	107	107
A Stable Lamp Is Lighted	74	---	---	---	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= 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

Manger Throne
(CCLI #7226106)
It’s Christmas
(CCLI #7050425)
Sing We the Song of Emmanuel
(CCLI #7078042)
Mary, Did You Know?
(CCLI #839225)
O Come, All You Unfaithful
(CCLI #7160115)

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