

CHRISTMAS EVE

Our Dear CHRIST Enters In



Christmas Eve, 2025

Our Dear Christ Enters In...the Family Tree

Theme Verse

Luke 2:10-11

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379 sts. 1, ref

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Text: Public domain

Hymn and Readings

P Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C And the glory of the Lord rises upon you!

P Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn!

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379 st. 2

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Text: Public domain

Hymns and Readings

- P** For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.

G And the government will be on his shoulder.

P And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

G Of his peace there will be no end.
- P** He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom forever.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379 st. 3

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Text: Public domain

Hymns and Readings

- P** Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.

G Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord!
- P** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379 st. 4

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Text: Public domain

Lighting of the Wreath

(The center white candle and all four candles around the Advent wreath are lit.)

- P** On this holy night, we light all four candles and the center candle, the Christ candle, on the Advent wreath. The Light of the World has come to make his home with us. Jesus Christ is born!

G Shine through the darkness and light our path to you, O Lord.
- P** The Son of God humbled himself to dwell with us. The newborn Savior was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger in Bethlehem when there was no other place for him. The infant King was welcomed by Mary and Joseph, worshiped by shepherds and praised by angels. Tonight, we join them in glorifying our Emmanuel. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given!

G Enlighten us, O Lord, with your presence every day of our lives and forevermore.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us come before our Lord this night to confess our sins:

G O Lord, since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, the human race has been sinful, and we know that we are sinners, and we are sincerely sorry for disobeying you in so many ways. We have not followed the Ten Commandments, we have not loved you and others as we ought, we have not respected and honored your precious gifts to us. We kneel at your manger and humbly confess our sins, seeking your forgiveness and love.

P Children of God, I have good news of great joy for you today. Because of the birth of the Christ Child who has come to save us, through his death on the cross, your sins are forgiven. Your misdeeds are erased. Your wayward behavior has been taken away forever. You are free to live a new life in his mercy and grace. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, as you made this night glad with the songs of angels and filled it with the brightness of the true Light, let the Light of Christ shine among us that we, too, may give you everlasting praise; through Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Away in a Manger

LSB 364

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children’s Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Text: Public domain

Reading

Isaiah 35

The Ransomed Shall Return

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm: Read Responsively Verse by Verse

Psalm 96:1–6, 11–13

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
**²Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**
³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
**⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.**
⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
**⁶Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**
¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
¹²let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
¹³before the LORD, for he comes,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Reading

Philemon 6–7

⁶and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Reading

Luke 2:1–20

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at

what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Once in Royal David's City LSB 376



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon - Our Dear Christ Enters in...With Great Joy!

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain

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

Christmas Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; who sent his Son as my Savior at Christmas.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angel, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the magi, who lived to suffer, die and rise again, to free me from all sin, from death and from the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my entire life and to live under him as my King, both now and forever. Amen.

Offering

Prayers of the Church

- P** Lord Jesus, we thank you for the great joy of this night. Fill our hearts with excitement for you. Let us love one another and you with all our hearts. Bring gladness to the saddened. Bring rejoicing to the weeping. Bring laughter to the groaning. On this holy night, be a beacon of heavenly light. O Jesus Christ, the Good News of Great Joy,

C **come and make your home within our hearts.**
- P** Lord Jesus, warm the homes of all who gather here and bring families and friends together in love and thankfulness to you for all your blessings to them. Fill living rooms, dining rooms, family rooms and kitchens with festive celebrations that honor you as the reason for the season and the source of all our joy. O Jesus Christ, the Good News of Great Joy,

C **come and make your home within our hearts.**
- P** Lord Jesus, we pray this night for those who are away from home or cannot be home for Christmas. Remind them that they are loved. Reveal to them your graciousness. Connect them from afar with family and friends through phone calls and FaceTime and Zoom sessions. Make your presence known to them that they may feel at home with you, O Jesus Christ, the Good News of Great Joy,

C **come and make your home within our hearts.**

- P** Lord Jesus, our hearts go out to those who do not have a home to go to this Christmas. Guide them to services and shelters that can house them and help them. Allow us to be of service to them by providing clothing and food and other resources that they need to survive in this world. And may they abide with you. O Jesus Christ, the Good News of Great Joy,

C **come and make your home within our hearts.**
- P** Lord Jesus, be with those who are sick at home or in the hospital. Surround them with your assurance and safekeeping, so that they may know that you will comfort and restore them according to your will. O Jesus Christ, the Good News of Great Joy,

C **come and make your home within our hearts.**
- P** Lord Jesus, for these and all other things we ask, we give you thanks, trusting in your mercy to make your dwelling place in every dwelling place where your spirit rests. Amen,

Lord’s Prayer

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363 sts. 1–3

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85
Text: Public domain

Benediction

- P** The Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and bring
you great peace and joy now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Joy to the World

LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Text: Public domain

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