

Our Dear CHRIST Enters In

In Our
Hearts



Christmas Day 2025

Our Dear Christ Enters In...Our Hearts

Theme Verse

Luke 2:19

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

1 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!" Refrain

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

2 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 Immanuel! Refrain

3 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. Refrain

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Text: Public domain

Lighting of the Wreath

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

- P** On this Christmas Day, 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. Today, we add to their praise by glorifying our Immanuel. 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** On this day of our Savior’s birth, let us humble ourselves in his presence and prepare to open our hearts before him:

(Silent reflection)

- P** King Jesus,
- G In the busyness and consumerism of this season, we confess that we have strayed from its true center. We let gift-giving, gatherings and other externals drive our enthusiasm, rather than dwelling on your coming to us as our Redeemer. Forgive our diversion, fill us with joy and keep us oriented on you. Amen.**
- P** Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy! Today in the town of David a Savior has been born for you! He is Christ the Lord. In him, God has saved you from your sins. Go in his peace, glorifying and praising God for all that you have heard and seen. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Father, on this glorious day we remember that your Son came to make his home among us. Guide us by his Light, that we may ever follow him on the way to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

LSB 803

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

△ 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav’n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt.
Text: Public domain

Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”
⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;

he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Psalm: Read Responsively verse by verse

Psalm 119:9–11, 15–16

BETH

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
¹⁰With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!
¹¹I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.

¹⁵I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.
¹⁶I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

Reading

Galatians 4:1–7

Sons and Heirs

¹I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reading

Luke 2:15–20

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.

What Child Is This

LSB 370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98
Text: Public domain

Sermon - Our Dear Christ Enters in...In Our Hearts

Christmas Creed

Tune of 361

- 1 In God the Father we believe, the Lord of hosts his name.
All things from him their form receive; by his strong Word they came.
By him was all created in earth and heav’n above.
He made them all, things great and small, by his great pow’r and love.
- 2 In God’s Son Jesus we believe, who came at God’s own hour,
Whom virgin Mary did conceive by Holy Spirit’s pow’r.
He suffered and was buried, was raised at God’s own call
To reign on high, and to draw nigh at last as Judge of all.
- 3 In Holy Spirit we believe and in Christ’s Church on earth.
The saints, united, faith receive, a gift of precious worth.
He sanctifies and keeps us by his empow’ring love.
Forgiven, we the grave shall flee to live with God above.

Text: Public domain

Offering

Prayers of the Church

- P** Lord Jesus, with fondness, we remember Christmases past, and we turn our hearts toward that first Christmas when you were born in a manger to Mary with Joseph standing by. Help us to recognize and ponder the great meaning of your birth among us, your miraculous coming to be in this world for a time that you might live a sinless life, die and rise again for our salvation. Let us never forget that Good News. O Jesus Christ, who made your home with us,
- C we treasure you in our hearts.**
- P** Lord Jesus, fill our homes with joyful memories of the past with family and friends this Christmas. Help us to never take your many blessings for granted but always to be grateful for them. May our time together this season with loved ones be cherished and held close to our hearts throughout the year and beyond. O Jesus Christ, who made your home with us,
- C we treasure you in our hearts.**
- P** Lord Jesus, as Luke recounted the story of your birth, help us to share your story with those around us. May the story of our own lives be molded and shaped by the story of your coming among us to save us from sin, death and the devil. May our words and actions this season reflect the magnitude of your love for all the world. O Jesus Christ, who made your home with us,
- C we treasure you in our hearts.**
- P** Lord Jesus, many have memories of Christmases past that they would rather not ponder, remember or share. Help them to work through the hard feelings and tough circumstances by your strength and power. Allow them to experience positive memories this Christmas so that they may be more able to embrace the joy of your presence with us as the Baby in Bethlehem. O Jesus Christ, who made your home with us,
- C we treasure you in our hearts.**

- P** Lord Jesus, for those who are alone or far away from family or friends this Christmas, be their companion, keep company with them and be a blessing to them. May they find new memories and traditions to savor and enjoy this year. O Jesus Christ, who made your home with us,
- C we treasure you in our hearts.**
- P** Lord Jesus, for those sick at home or in the hospital this Christmas and for all those who are traveling, remind them that just as God took care of Mary and Joseph and Jesus on their journey that first Christmas, so he will take care of each of them, surrounding them with safety and protection all the way. O Jesus Christ, who made your home with us,
- C we treasure you in 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.

Benediction

- P** The Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and bring you peace in his presence now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389

- 1 Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

2 He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

3 Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

- 5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child’s love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; (sts. 1, 3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
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