

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE HYMN – “As With Gladness Men of Old”

THE INVOCATION

WITH ANGELIC HOSTS PROCLAIM A CHRISTMAS BEGINNING

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

Almighty God, before whom angels veil their faces, and in whose presence they delight, with reverence and joy we acknowledge your glory and worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal trinity.

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’re the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria in excelsis Deo...**

Confessing our sin and our unworthiness, we beseech your mercy and forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh to dwell among us, full of grace and truth.

**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, incarnate Deity!**

**Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King
Gloria in excelsis Deo ...**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in the land of deep darkness – on them the light has shined. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings
Ris’n with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY

O God,
by the leading of a star
You make known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.
Lead us,
who know You by faith,
to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen

THE LESSONS

THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

THE HYMN – “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

THE HOMILY – “Just Follow the Signs”

THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

THE GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Melody.....Angels from the Realms of Glory)

Cong.: May the Lord be with us gathered
‘round the table of the Son.
Now we lift our hearts and voices
Unto God who makes us one.
Here we raise our thanks and praises
For this great thing God has done.

Pastor: God had come to earth from heaven,
Christ the Word made flesh today.
Humbly born, in manger lowly,
Laid to rest upon the hay.
May we share the light he brings us,
And with angels let us pray:

Cong.: Holy, Holy Lord, most holy,
God of power, God of might,
Heav’n and earth proclaim your glory,
Shining brightly in your light.

**Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna at the sight!**

Pastor: You gave Abraham and Sarah
Visions of your sacred dream.
You sent prophets with the promise
That the world you would redeem.
Now, this day, your Son is shining
With your Love’s most radiant beam.

Pastor: Christ took bread and wine that ev’ning,
Blessed and gave it unto all:
“Eat my body, drink my blood –
Given for the life of all.
Share this food whene’er you gather.
And by this my love recall.”

Pastor: Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
Now upon this bread and wine.
Send your Spirit on all gathered
At this feast on which we dine.

Cong.: May we praise your name most holy,
As within our hearts you shine.

Cong.: Praise to you, dear God the Father,
With the Spirit and the Son,
Praises for the Gift most holy –
That to us the Christ has come.
Star and manger, cross and grave.
Proclaim the vict’ry you have won.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.

THE DISMISSAL & THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Lord God bless and keep you;
May God's face upon you shine.
May God's grace be ever faithful,
Fill your lives with light divine.
May God look on you with favor;
May God's peace your hearts refine. Amen

THE CLOSING HYMN – "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"