

Order of Service

Christmas 1 Service

December 27, 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP:
Morning Praise

[Based on pp. 109–119
in the black hymnal— the
Evangelical Lutheran
Hymnary (ELH)]

Call to Worship • *Christmas 1*

[*Psalm 93:5, 2 (EHV)*]

€ASTOR: Today we joyfully pray to the God who keeps His promises and fulfills His plan for our salvation. As we gather in God’s house and Jesus enters here through Word and Sacrament, *may we joyfully receive Him as faithful Simeon and Anna did, acknowledging Him alone to be the source of our peace and joy.*

“Your testimonies stand very firm. Holiness beautifies your house for endless days,
O LORD.

fONGREGATION: Your throne was established long ago. You are from eternity.”

Hymn • “Away in a Manger”

[ELH 119]

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright 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.

-Stand-

Confession of Sin and Declaration of Forgiveness

€ Let us confess our sin to God and pray.

f Almighty God, heavenly Father: I have sinned against You through my own fault, in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

€ Lift up your hearts! For the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, God has had mercy on you, forgiven you all your sin, and He will bring those who believe in Him to everlasting life at the end.

Peace “ be with you.

Prayers from the Psalms

[Ps 51:15, Ps 70:1]

€ Let us pray to the Lord, using His Word to ask for His blessings.

O Lord, we pray to You because You have purged away our sin by Your holy life, innocent death, and victorious resurrection. You alone have given us this new song of praise, and we ask You to strengthen us to sing it every day of our lives:

f “O LORD, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.”

€ Gracious Father, as You have been our help in times past, we pray that You continue to stay with us in this life. Hear our prayers, and always give us Your loving answers.

f “Hurry, God! Rescue Me! Lord, hurry to help me!”

€ We pray this confident that You will hear and answer us, because You are the one, true and living God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

f Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning is now and will be forevermore. Amen.

Song of Praise • “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” [ELH 128]

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

2. Sin and death may well be groaning,
Satan now may well be moaning;
We, our full salvation owning,
Cast our ev'ry care away.

7. O the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to Thee we come confessing
That our freedom Thou hast wrought.

Prayer of the Day • *Christmas 1*

€ Almighty God, in mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son to take upon Himself our human nature. By His gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and *make us bold* to sing Your songs of peace and joy in our lives.

„ We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our living Lord, who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

-Be seated-

First Lesson • Isaiah 42:1–4

Isaiah prophetically presents the Messiah to the world. The Christ is truly the righteous judge for all people who declares His gracious verdict of innocence for us.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight.

I am placing my Spirit on him.

He will announce a just verdict for the nations.

²He will not cry out.

He will not raise his voice.

He will not make his voice heard in the street.

³A bent reed he will not break,

and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.

He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.

⁴He will not burn out, and he will not be broken
until he establishes justice on the earth.

The coastlands will wait for his law. (EHV)

€ This is the Word of our Lord.

f Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day • *Christmas 1* [Psalm 93:5, 2, 1 (EHV)]

€ Your testimonies stand very firm.

f Holiness beautifies your house for endless days, O LORD.

€ Your throne was established long ago.

f You are from eternity.

€ The LORD reigns. He is clothed in majesty.

f The LORD is clothed—he wears strength like a belt.

€ Yes, the world stands firm.

f It will not be moved.

Second Lesson • Galatians 4:1–7

God accomplished our salvation not haphazardly, but with great effort and careful planning. Today He still makes us His spiritual children intentionally and lovingly.

What I am saying is this: As long as the heir is a young child, he is no different from a slave. Although he is owner of everything, ²he is still under guardians and managers until the day set by his father. ³So also, when we were younger children, we were enslaved under the basic principles of the world. ⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ. (EHV)

€ This is the Word of our Lord.

f Thanks be to God.

-Stand-

Gospel Acclamation • *John 17:17 (EHV)* [tune: ELH 153]

f Alleluia! Alleluia!

Faith comes from hearing You—

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Through Your Word which is true. Through Your Word which is true!

Gospel • Luke 2:25–38

Forty days after His birth, Jesus was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem for Mary's ritual of purification after childbirth and for Jesus' ceremonial initiation into the Jewish faith. There they encounter Simeon and Anna who rejoice to see Christ as their Savior.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple

courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, ²⁸Simeon took him into his arms and praised God.

He said,

²⁹Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word,

³⁰because my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared before the face of all people,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

³³Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. ³⁸Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. (EHV)

€ This is the Gospel of our Lord.

f Thanks be to God.

-Be seated-

Hymn • "Thou Light of Gentile Nations"

[ELH 151]

1. Thou Light of Gentile nations,
Thou Savior from above,
Drawn by Thy Spirit's leading,
We come with joy and love
Into Thy holy temple

3. Be Thou our Joy and Brightness,
Our Cheer in pain and loss,
Our Sun in darkest terror,
The Glory round our cross,
A Star for sinking spirits,

And wait with earnest mind
As Simeon once had waited
His God and Lord to find.

2. Yea, Lord, Thy servants meet Thee
In ev'ry holy place
Where Thy true Word has promised
That we should see Thy face.
Today Thou still dost grant us
Who gather round Thee here
In arms of faith to bear Thee
As did that aged seer.

A Beacon in distress,
Physician, Friend, in sickness,
In death our Happiness.

4. Let us, O Lord, be faithful
Like Simeon to the end,
So that his prayer exultant
May from our hearts ascend:
"O Lord, now let Thy servant,
Depart in peace, I pray,
Since I have seen my Savior
And here beheld His day."

Sermon • *Luke 2:25–38*

A Matter of Life and Death!

-Stand-

Apostles' Creed

€ Having heard the Word of God, we confess our holy faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

„ I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was
buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He
ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints,
the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting.
Amen.

Receiving of Offerings ~ *We offer our treasures to Christ for the work of His Kingdom*

Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church

[ELH p 48–49, alt]

€ Everlasting and merciful God, we fervently ask You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

f To have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

€ Look in mercy on Your church. Protect it and sanctify it by Your truth. May Your Word be taught in its purity and Your Sacraments rightly administered. Grant faithful pastors to Your Church who shall declare Your truth with power and shall live according to Your will. Send out workers into Your harvest and open the door of faith to all unbelievers and the people of Israel. In mercy remember the enemies of Your Church and grant them repentance resulting in life.

f God, in the greatness of your mercy, answer us with the certainty of salvation from you.

€ Let Your protecting hand be over our country and over all who travel. Prosper what is good among us and bring every evil counsel and purpose to nothing. Protect and bless Your servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this state, our judges and magistrates and all in authority. Equip them for their high calling by the gift of Your Spirit of wisdom and fear, so

that we might live a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and dignity.

f Lord, hear and be merciful to us. Lord, be a helper for us.

€ According Your Promise, O God, be the defender of the widow and the father of the fatherless. Relieve and comfort the sick and the sorrowful. Graciously help those who are assaulted by the devil and who are in peril of death. Be the strength of those who are suffering for the sake of Christ's holy name. Grant that we may live together in peace and prosperity. Grant us good and seasonable weather, and bless us with upright Christian wisdom in all that we do.

f O Lord, be with all in distress. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your Name.

€ We especially commend to Your care and keeping this Your congregation which You have bought at a great price. Keep us all from offenses and bind us together in the unity of Your holy love. Grant that the little ones who are baptized in Your name may be brought up in Your fear. At Your table, give those who commune with You peace and life everlasting.

f Let all rejoice who take refuge in You. Let them sing for joy because You protect them.

€ In Your mercy... [special petitions]... In Christ's name we pray.

f Lord, in Your mercy hear our prayer.

€ Be merciful, O God, to all, according to Your great love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. When our final hour shall come, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection to Your glory.

f Amen. Grant us Your peace, O Lord!

-Be seated-

Hymn • *"I Am So Glad when Christmas Comes"*

[ELH 127]

1. I am so glad when Christmas comes,
The night of Jesus' birth,
When Beth'lem's star shone as the sun
And angels sang with mirth.

2. The little Child of Bethlehem,
The King of heav'nly grace,
Came down from His exalted throne
To save our fallen race.

3. He's now returned to heav'n above,
God's Son He is alway;

He ne'er forgets His little ones
But hears them when they pray.

4. I too would sing my Savior's praise,
My joy, my crown, my Lord;
For He has made me His own child
By Water and the Word.

-Stand-

Prayer for God's Continued Mercy ~ *Kyrie Eleison* [Mk 10:47]

€ Let us pray to the Lord:

We thank You, loving Father, that You have created us and still preserve us. Your greatest act of mercy was in giving Your only-begotten Son to be our substitute, so that we may not die, but live with You forever. For this we pray to You, Lord God the Father:

f Lord, have mercy upon us.

€ We thank You, O Christ, that You carried all our sins on Your sacred shoulders, and by Your blood have blotted away all our transgressions. Now You rule all things in heaven and earth for the good of Your Church. For this we pray to You, Lord Jesus Christ:

f Christ, have mercy upon us.

€ We thank You, gracious Comforter, that You have given us Your holy Word and blessed Sacraments. Through them You have created true faith in our hearts, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. For this we pray to You, Lord the Holy Spirit:

f Lord, have mercy upon us.

€ O Triune God, grant us Your grace so that we perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit so that, empowered by our Redeemer's death, we

may turn away from sin every day, and never forsake Him until we see Him face to face in life eternal. For this we pray to You, O Holy Trinity:

f Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord's Prayer

[Mt 6:9–13]

€ Hear us as we pray, O Lord:

„ 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.

Prayer ~ *Collect*

[ELH p 118]

€ Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with Your mighty power so that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity. In all we do, direct us to live as Your dear children, showing Your righteousness in all we do.

f We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Final Blessing ~ *Apostolic Blessing*

[ELH p 119; 2 Cor
13:14]

€ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...be with you all.

f Amen.

Hymn • “*Angels From The Realms of Glory*”

[ELH 114]

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light.
Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His Temple shall appear.
Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.