

Our Dear CHRIST Enters In



Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25

"But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Opening Hymn ... “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *LSB 380*

Lighting of the Advent 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!

C: 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!

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

Confession and Forgiveness

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, **C: 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.

Hymn of Response ... "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" *LSB 803*

Old Testament Reading ... *Isaiah 52:7-10*

P: *(after the reading)*...

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm ... *119:9-11, 15-16*

P: How can a young man keep his way pure?

C: By guarding it according to your word.

P: With my whole heart I seek you;

C: let me not wander from your commandments!

P: I have stored up your word in my heart

C: that I might not sin against you.

P: I will meditate on your precepts

C: and fix my eyes on your ways.

P: I will delight in your statutes;

C: I will not forget your word.

Epistle Reading ... *Galatians 4:1-7*

P: *(after the reading)*...

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music- "Mary's Boy Child" by Burt Heithold

Gospel Reading ... *Luke 2:15-20*

P: *(after the reading)*...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn ... “What Child Is This” LSB 370

Sermon

A Christmas Creed ... St. Louis 86 86 76 86; Tune LSB 361

Offering & Attendance/Involvement Cards

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

P: O Jesus Christ, who made your home with us,

C: we treasure you in our hearts.

Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution

Distribution Hymns . . .

“Joy to the World” LSB 387

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” LSB 380

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.**

Closing Hymn ... “Let All Together Praise Our God” LSB 389