



“Today in the town of David  
a Savior has been born to you;  
he is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

# The Order of Worship

## Pre-Service Music and Welcome

### Call to Worship

*Psalm 98*

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.  
<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made his salvation known.  
He has revealed his righteousness to the eyes of the nations.  
<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his mercy and his faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
<sup>4</sup> Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.  
Break out in joyful song! Make music!  
Praise the God of our salvation —  
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen!**

### Opening Hymn

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”  
*Christian Worship 36 st. 1-2, 4-5*

A great and mighty wonder, a glorious mystery;  
A virgin bears an infant who veils his deity.  
Repeat the hymn again:  
“To God on high be glory and peace on earth to men.”

The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.  
Repeat the hymn again:  
“To God on high be glory and peace on earth to men.”

Since all he comes to ransom, by all he is adored,  
The infant born in Bethl’em, the Savior and the Lord.  
Repeat the hymn again:  
“To God on high be glory and peace on earth to men.”

*(The congregation will rise)*

All idols then shall perish and Satan's lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise his scepter, decreeing endless peace.

Repeat the hymn again:

“To God on high be glory and peace on earth to men.”

### **Confession of Sins**

P: St. Paul writes: “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under law, in order to redeem those under law.” As sinners we are under the condemnation of God's just and holy Law. We have rebelled against his will. We have rejected his Word. We have resisted his loving leadership. In humility, we must pray:



**C: Lord, have mer — cy.**

P: When we examine ourselves we find nothing in us but sin and death. Our best works are nothing more than filthy rags, completely unworthy of any merit before God. We also know there is no escape from the eternal consequences of our sinful rebellion. Because of our unworthiness, we must plead:



**C: Christ, have mer — cy.**

P: O Almighty and most merciful Father, we must confess that we are completely corrupted by sin. We see disobedience in our thoughts, in our words, and in our every action. We must also confess, we deserve nothing from you except your just judgment. But we come trusting in the compassion and merits of our Savior and Substitute, Jesus Christ:



C: Lord, have mer — cy.

### The Absolution

P: Because of the perfect obedience and boundless compassion of Jesus, our new-born Savior, we can be confident God has heard and answered our cry for mercy. He has forgiven our sins and declared us free from guilt and punishment. Truly, God is good to all who call on him and look to his Son through faith. Thankful for this great out-pouring of undeserved love, we join in praising God with our voices, and serving him with our lives.



C: A — — men!

### Hymn of Praise

“Let All Together Praise Our God”  
*Christian Worship 41 st. 1, 5 & 6*

Let all together praise our God  
Before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again  
And gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.

He serves that I a lord may be —  
A great exchange indeed!  
Could Jesus' love do more for me  
To help me in my need? To help me in my need?

For us he opens wide the door  
Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay, to God our thanks we pay.

### **Prayer for Christmas Day**

P: O blessed Jesus, our new-born Savior and King, as we celebrate your birth, we are filled with great joy. We know you came to this earth to show your Father's love. We also know you came to secure our rescue from sin, from death, and from the power of Satan. As we view these great gifts of your birth, make them the chief focus of this season. Never allow the cares of this world, the deceptions of Satan, or even the weakness of our own flesh to rob us of the peace and joy you have provided. Make our celebration one filled with the lasting blessings you came to bring. Preserve us in this joy and peace until we experience the eternal blessings you came to bring. Then in heaven, we will praise you—our Savior and King—together with your Father and the Spirit, throughout endless ages.

**C: Amen.**

### **Handbells**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Arranged by Jason W. Krug*

*Published by Agape / Hope Publishing*

### **The Lesson from God's Word**

*“Sing the Songs of the Saints!”*

### **The Song of Mary**

*The Magnificat*

*Luke 1:46-55*

<sup>46</sup> Then Mary said,

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from

their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, <sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

**Song by Congregation**      “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”  
*Christian Worship 274 st. 1, 3 & 6*  
*to the tune of “All People that On Earth Do Dwell”*

My soul now magnifies the Lord;  
My spirit shall in God rejoice.  
My humble state he did regard,  
Exalting me by gracious choice.

His mercy is on all who fear,  
Who trust in him from age to age.  
His arm of strength to all is near;  
The proud he scatters, though they rage.

So praise with me the Holy One,  
Who comes in all humility.  
To our Redeemer, God’s own Son,  
Be glory in eternity!

**The Song of Zechariah**

*The Benedicamus*  
*Luke 1:6-19*

<sup>67</sup>Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

“Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people. <sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets. <sup>71</sup> He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, <sup>72</sup> in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy cove-

nant, <sup>73</sup> the oath which he swore to Abraham our father, <sup>74</sup> to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies, so that we are able to serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of God's tender mercies, by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us, <sup>79</sup> to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Song by Congregation**

“Blest Be the God of Israel”  
*Christian Worship 275 st. 1-3*

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;  
He visits and redeems us; he grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace.

He from the house of David a child of grace has given;  
A Savior comes among us to raise us up to heav'n.  
Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way,  
The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,  
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.  
He guides the feet of pilgrims, along the paths of peace.  
Oh, bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

**Psalm of the Day**

*Psalm 96*

P: Sing to the LORD, a new song. Sing to the LORD, all the earth  
Sing to the LORD. Praise his name

**C: Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.  
Tell about his glory among the nations, about his marvelous  
deeds among all peoples.**

P: For great is the LORD and worthy of great praise. He is to be feared above all gods.

**C: Let the heavens rejoice. Let the earth celebrate, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

### **The Song of the Angels**

*Gloria in Excelsis  
Luke 1:9-16*

<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

**Song by Congregation** “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”  
*Christian Worship 38 st. 1, 2 & 15*

“From heav’n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Were-of I now will say and sing.

“To you this night is born a child



Of Mary, chosen, virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

### Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks

#### **Prayer for Christmas Day**

P: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and at the right time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

P: What a great mystery of faith this is: that God has become fully human to secure our rescue! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

**C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born to be our Savior and our Substitute.**

P: Even though our hearts are filled with joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities we have every day to tell others what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

**C: Grant that the true peace between God and sinners may comfort all people.**

*Special prayers and intercessions*

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

P: As the saints of old and the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of our Savior's birth remains in our hearts.

**C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

**The Song of Simeon**

*Nunc Dimittus  
Luke 2:28-32*

<sup>8</sup> Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

<sup>29</sup> Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace,  
according to your word, <sup>30</sup> because my eyes have seen your  
salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared before the face of all  
people, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory  
of your people Israel.

**Response by the Congregation**

*Nunc Dimittus*

*(Simeon's song of praise is printed on the next page)*



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part  
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen  
your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry  
peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

**Closing Psalm of Praise**

*Psalm 89*

P: I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever. With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, also your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the sons of God?

**C: O LORD God of Armies, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.**

P: How blessed are the people who know the joyful cry. LORD, they walk in the light from your face. In your name they celebrate all day long. In your righteousness they are lifted up. For you are the beauty of their strength.

**C: O LORD God of Armies, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.**

P: O new-born Savior, we can only marvel at your birth. You, the King of kings and Lord of lords, humbled yourself to become our servant. You even consented to take on our flesh and blood to become our righteous Substitute. Accept our praise and songs of thanksgiving. Keep the joy of your birth ever burning brightly in our hearts. Make it not only our confidence of your undeserved love, but also your unfailing care which will sustain us until we praise you in heaven. There together with your Father and the Spirit, we will glorify you throughout all eternity.



C: A ——— men.

**The Benediction:**

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.  
 The Lord bless you and keep you,  
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A — men. A ——— men. A ——— men.

**Closing Hymn**

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”  
*Christian Worship 34*

Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heav’n our voice;  
 He from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies;  
 Not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies.  
 Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.  
 Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;  
 Through thy grace and merit, blest Jesus, Lord most mild,

Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!

Now through his Son doth shine the Father's grace divine.  
Death o'er us had reigned through sin and vanity;  
He for us obtained eternal joy on high.  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing with all his saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing in heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

### **Silent Prayer**

#### **Announcements**

**Today**—In our new-born Savior's name, welcome. May the rich and undeserved love of our faithful and gracious God be with you. If you are visiting this morning, please sign a "visitor card" or the guest book. We also invite you to worship again, soon!

- There will be time for friendship and snacks following the worship service. Please go to the fellowship hall.

**Friday**—Office hours: 9:30 am—12:30 pm

**Saturday**—Church Cleaning: Aitkins

- Lawn beginning December 24th—C. Schueler

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>—Sunday Worship and Live Streaming at 9:30 am.** As we continue our celebration of the Savior's birth, and as we prepare to enter a new year, we want to consider the blessings which are ours through our Savior. These are blessings which will guard, guide, and comfort us.

- There will be no Bible Class this morning.

### **Thank You**

To Jim Everson, our Hymnsoft operator; to the Handbell choir; to Josh Schueler for controlling the audio and video of the live stream; to all those who helped decorate the church and fellowship hall for our Christmas season of worship.



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OUR REDEEMER  
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