

**Christmas Day Choral Service  
Order of Worship**

Lisa Frenz © 2002

▲ = Please stand as you are able. ▼ = Please sit

Prelude & Lighting of Candles

**Christmas Proclamation**

*(Spoken from the back of the sanctuary)*

▲ P: From before time and creation God set into motion the salvation of all humanity... God's Word flowed out and took human form. An ocean contained in a stream. A star cupped in a hand. God – conceived, carried and born of a woman. The plan from before time, put into time and space.... As promised, the virgin conceived and bore a son. And he was named Jesus... Emmanuel... God With Us.... The Word made flesh which dwells among us. Rejoice and be glad! God has come to save you—love you—reclaim you!

Suggested Anthem: "The Hallelujah Chorus" (Handel)

Choir

A: *New promise. New hope. As God brought Israel out of Egypt, and rescued Zion from slavery, so does God restore all creation, gathering everyone together, breathing life into a dead world, animation into a lifeless people, claiming us as God's own.*

**Gathering Song: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"** (Tune: Adeste Fideles, Text: attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2)

Oh, come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the king of angels:

*Refrain:* Oh, come, let us adore him,  
oh, come, let us adore him,  
oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

P: The grace and love of God be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

▼ **Praise Song: “’Twas in the Moon Of Wintertime”** (Tune: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, Text: Jean de Brebeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt. )

'Twas in the moon of wintertime  
when all the birds had fled,  
that God, the Lord of all the earth,  
sent angel choirs instead.  
Before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:  
*Refrain:* Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born!  
Glory be to God on high!

O children of the forest free,  
the angels' song is true.  
The holy child of earth and heav'n  
is born today for you.  
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Special Music:

**Psalm 98 “Sing A New Song”** (Tune: SING A NEW SONG, Daniel Schutte)

*Refrain:* Sing a new song unto the Lord;  
let your song be sung from mountains high.  
Sing a new song unto the Lord,  
singing alleluia.

Yahweh's people dance for joy;  
oh, come before the Lord,  
and praise the Lord on glad tambourines,  
and let your trumpet sound. *Refrain*

Rise, O children, from your sleep;  
your Savior now has come.  
The Lord has turned your sorrow to joy,  
and filled your soul with song. *Refrain*

Text: Daniel Schutte  
(c) 1972, 1974 Daniel L. Schutte, admin. New Dawn Music. All rights reserved.

▲ **Scripture Song: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”** (Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.)

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 hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

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! *Refrain*

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

▼ Music for Meditation  
Message

▲ **Theme Song: “Cold December Flies Away”** (Tune: LO DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Text:  
Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953)

Cold December flies away  
at the rose-red splendor.  
April's crowning glory breaks  
while the whole world wonders  
at the holy unseen pow'r  
of the tree which bears the flow'r.  
On the blessed tree  
blooms the reddest flow'r.  
On the tree blooms the rose  
here in love's own garden,  
full and strong in glory.

In the hopeless time of sin  
shadows deep had fallen.  
All the world lay under death.  
Eyes were closed in sleeping.  
But, when all seemed lost in night,  
came the sun whose golden light  
brings unending joy,  
brings the endless joy  
of our hope, highest hope,  
of our hope's bright dawning,  
Son belov'd of heaven.

Now the bud has come to bloom,  
and the world awakens.  
In the lily's purest flow'r  
dwells a wondrous fragrance.  
And it spreads to all the earth  
from the moment of its birth;  
and its beauty lives.  
In the flow'r it lives,  
in the flow'r, and it spreads  
in its heav'nly brightness  
sweet perfume delightful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953  
(c) 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

### Creed

**By the grace granted to me by God, I believe.**

**I believe in God, the Creator, who made me and all creation, who calls me into relationship and makes me a child of freedom.**

**I believe in God, Christ Jesus, who has saved me and all creation, who by his death and resurrection has rescued me from the punishment of sin and restores me to the freedom given me at the beginning of creation.**

**I believe in God, the Holy Spirit, who breathes life into me and all creation, who fills me with grace, leads me into wisdom, and gives me strength for the work of my life.**

**I believe in one God, who is Creator, Savior and Spirit, the center of my life now and for all eternity.**

### Christmas Litany *(spoken over music)*

P: Did you see in that stable? Did you see?

C: **A universe contained in a moment. Infinity bounded by time.**

P: Did you see in that manger? Did you see?

C: **An Immortal embodied in a mortal baby. Glory enfolded by human frailty.**

P: Did you see in those arms? Did you see?

C: **The Untouchable clasped in human hands. Divinity embraced by humanity.**

P: This is the mystery. This is the glory. This is Christmas.  
C: **A baby born. A child given. Christ Jesus, God with us.**

### Greeting of Peace

P: The peace of God be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

▼ Offering/Special Music

▲ **Offering Song: “Angels We Have Heard On High”** (Tune: GLORIA, Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862)

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862

Offering Prayer

Community Prayers

Eucharistic Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**Table Song: “For All People Christ Was Born”** (Tune: FOR ALL PEOPLE, Ray Makeever)

For all people Christ was born  
on that quiet Christmas morn:  
star of David, bright and warm for all.

For all people Christ has come  
down from heav'n to earthly home:  
gift of freedom, God alone for all.

For all people Christ can be  
grace and truth and love set free:  
light and life for you, for me, for all.

Text: Ray Makeever  
(c) 1981 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

▼ **Distribution of Communion**

P: The body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep in God's grace.

C: Amen.

▲ **Thanksgiving Song: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”** (Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO, Text: medieval Latin carol; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.)

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

Prayer

Blessing

P: May God enfold you in the mystery of Christmas.  
May God enlighten you in the Way of Christ's love.  
May God keep you safe and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

▼ Community Announcements

▲ **Sending Song: "Joy to the World"** (Tune: ANTIOCH, Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*A: Go in Peace Serve the Lord.*

**C: Thanks Be to God!**

Postlude