

Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church



What Child is This?
God in the Flesh

Christmas Day

December 25, 2021



"Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace."

Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME!

Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We pray that the time spent here in God's house helps you to appreciate how dearly God loves you! He invested the life blood of his one and only Son into your salvation and offers the blessings of that sacrifice to us through Word and Sacrament! May God bless our worship today!

THEME FOR TODAY

The Lord told Moses, "No one may see me and live." If sinners cannot even bear to look upon the glory of God, then they certainly could not hope to live with God in the glory of heaven. So, on that first Christmas, God chose to hide his glory under flesh. What child is this? It is God and man in one person, exactly what the human race needed to deliver it from its enemies of sin, death, and Satan.

WORSHIP SERIES

A baby is born every twelve seconds. That's 140 million babies born each year. Yet, there is something that sets this child apart from all others. It is not simply his humble beginnings, with a cattle trough as his first cradle. It is not just the miraculous nature of his birth, his mother being a virgin. There is so much more. This child is the only hope we have for peace and a future. This child can wipe away every tear, drive away every fear. Here is the truth of Christmas. With this child, you lack nothing. Without him, you have nothing. Let us use this season of Christmas to answer this most important question: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?"

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Christmas Eve, December 24 th	—	A Savior
Christmas Day, December 25th	—	God in the Flesh
Sunday, December 26 th	—	Our Substitute and Sacrifice
Sunday, January 2 nd	—	The One Who Sets His People Free

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN 55

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

CHRISTMAS

55

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, alt.

STAND

[M]: In the name of the Father and of the Son (✠) and of the Holy Spirit.

[C]: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

[M]: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[C]: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

[M]: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

[C]: Amen.

Hymn 49

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

CHRISTMAS

49

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn



Re - joyce, re - joyce this hap - py morn! A Sav - ior
un - to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry.
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels
from on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry.
My soul, Ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless him ev - er For
sal - va - tion. Give him praise and ad - o - ra - tion.

Text: Birgitte K. Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937.
Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M]: The Lord be with you.

[C]: **And also with you.**

[M]: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

To reveal himself to us, God hid himself in human flesh. To reveal himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

¹⁹ And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

²¹ Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

A psalm.

- ¹ 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.
- ² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
- ³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
- ⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
- ⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
- ⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
- ⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
- ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
- ⁹ let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING**Romans 8:31-32**

If the Father was willing to give us his only Son, clearly there is no good thing he would withhold from us.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

STAND

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

In Jesus the God whose glory is impossible to see is seen. The God who cannot be known is known.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'")¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

BE SEATED

CHRISTMAS

35

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
 3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
 5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
 When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
 Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
 An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
 And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
 Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
 Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
 min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
 chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
 of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
 min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -



see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, st. 1-4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5, alt.
 Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.

See God's Glory on Christmas

- I. Lying in the Manger**
- II. To Know His Grace**

STAND

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 will 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.**

OFFERING

During this on-going pandemic we have refrained from passing the offering plate. You may place your offering into the plate on the table before or after the service. Online giving is also available on our website, www.princeofpeacemartinez.com .

CHRISTMAS

54

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt



1 Where shep - herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange-ly stirred;
 Sweet new - born Babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed,
 His proph - e - cies ful-filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
 Its way in - to my heart un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: MANGER SONG (12 12 10 10) Carl. F. Schalk, b. 1929. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
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PRAYER

- [M]: Precious Savior, we rejoice at your birth because we know that you came as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world.
- [C]: **We look beyond the manger to the cross, where your precious blood was shed to wash away our sins forever, so that we might stand before God spotless and blameless.**
- [M]: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of all the earth. The message of salvation in your name is meant to gladden every heart.
- [C]: **Send out your light and your truth to nations everywhere, that every knee may bow before you, and every heart worship you as true God incarnate, who came to earth to save all people from their sins.**

[M]: Encourage and equip witnesses who can take your gospel to people in places to which we cannot go.

[C]: **Encourage and equip us to bring the gospel to those who are near to us, beginning with our families and neighbors and all those we know who do not know the truth about you. Give us courage and strength to shine as your lights in this dark world.**

[M]: In the new year which lies ahead, keep your light of love and truth shining brightly in our own hearts.

[C]: **Watch over us and keep us from temptation, so that we are not led astray into paths of sin and unbelief which lead to destruction. Increase our understanding of your Word and give us wisdom to apply it to our daily lives.**

[M]: Fill us with confidence and joy as we await your return, dear Savior, provide for our needs, and guide us in all that we do. Hear us Lord, also, as we bring to you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

[M]: All of these requests we humbly lay at your feet, and pray the prayer you taught us to pray:

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.

[M]: 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]: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

CHRISTMAS

40

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is



1 O Je - sus Christ, Your man - ger is
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey
 3 Dear Chris - tian friend, On him de - pend;
 4 Pon - der a - gain What glo - ry then
 5 The world may hold Her wealth and gold;



My par - a - dise where my soul is re -
 Comes down to serve the sin - ner in great
 Be of good cheer and let no sor - row
 The Lord will give you for your earth - ly
 But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true



clin - ing. For there, O Lord, We find the Word
 meek - ness. Now God's own Son With us is one
 move you. For God's own child In mer - cy mild
 sad - ness. The an - gel host Can nev - er boast
 treas - ure. To him hold fast Un - til at last



Made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.
 And joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
 Joins you to him—how great - ly God must love you!
 Of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.
 A crown is yours and hon - or in full meas - ure.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
 Tune: O JESU CHRIST, DEIN KRIPPLEIN IST (44 11 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAYS

Our celebration of Christmas doesn't end on Christmas Day! The two Sundays following Christmas make up the Christmas season of the church year. Be sure to make plans to hear even more about this great gift God has given us!

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