

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

- P** "Lord God, You sent Your one and only Son into the world to be the Savior of all people, and gave Him the name Jesus. Mercifully grant that we who worship in His name today here on earth may joyfully see Him face to face in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen."
- P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen!

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 62:10-12 Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. ¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹² And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

- P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, rejoice! For Christ has come.

HYMN: TLH #79

"Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn"

**1. Rejoice, rejoice, this happy morn, A Savior unto us is born, The Christ, the Lord of Glory.
His lowly birth in Bethlehem The angels from on high proclaim And sing redemption's story.
My soul, extol God's great favor, Bless Him ever For salvation, Give Him praise and adoration.**

INTROIT

Ps. 98:1-4; Is. 9:6

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- C** And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- P** Oh 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.
- C** The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- P** He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- C** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
- P** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- C** And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

HYMN: WS #708:1-3

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

**1. 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. Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come let us...**

**2. God of God, Light of Light, Born of a virgin, to earth He comes,
Very God, Be-gotten not created. Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come let us...**

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation; Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, In the highest. Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come let us...**

Christmas Cards from the Apostle Paul

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 23-24 Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

I. "Rejoice Always!"

HYMN: TLH #92:1-2

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

1. Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heaven 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!
2. 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!

II. "Pray Without Ceasing!"

HYMN: TLH #106:1,4,5,7

"The People That in Darkness Sat"

1. The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been.
4. To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is given,
And on His shoulder ever rests All power in earth and heaven.
5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor. The God by all adored.
7. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one.

III. "Give Thanks!"

HYMN: TLH #78

"Hail the Day So Rich in Cheer"

1. Hail the day so rich in cheer For each earth-born creature!
God's own Son from heav'n draws near, Takes our human nature;
Of a virgin born is He; Mary, by the Lord's decree,
Is become a mother. See the miracle of love:
God Himself, from heav'n above, Came to be our Brother!
2. Child of wonder, virgin-born, King of all creation,
On this happy Christmas morn Come for our salvation!
Were this Child for us not born, We should all be lost, forlorn,
No true hope possessing. Dear Lord Jesus, thanks to Thee
Now and thro' eternity For this grace and blessing!

IV. Merry Christmas!



Opening God's Gift

Luke 2:1-7 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his betrothed wife, who was obviously pregnant by this time. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped Him snugly in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

HYMN: TLH #84:1

"Christians, Awake"

- 1. Christians, awake, salute the happy morn Whereon the Savior of the world was born.
Rise to adore the mystery of love Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun Of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.**

Luke 2:8-12 That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terribly frightened, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David! And this is how you will recognize Him: You will find a baby lying in a manger, wrapped snugly in strips of cloth!"

HYMN: TLH #84:2

"Christians, Awake"

- 2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told, Who heard the angelic herald's voice, "Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Savior's birth To you and all the nations upon earth;
This day hath God fulfilled His promised word; This day is born a Savior, Christ the Lord."**

Luke 2:13-14 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God: "In the highest glory to God; on earth peace; among men good will."

HYMN: TLH #84:3

"Christians, Awake"

- 3. He spake; and straightway the celestial choir In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
The praises of redeeming love they sang, And heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang.
God's highest glory was their anthem still, Peace upon earth, and unto men good will.**

Luke 2:15-18 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Come on, let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 They ran to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. 17 Then the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this Child. 18 All who heard the shepherd's story were astonished...

HYMN: TLH #84:4

"Christians, Awake"

- 4. To Bethlehem straight th' enlightened shepherds ran To see the wonder God had wrought
for man And found, with Joseph and the blessed maid, Her Son, the Savior, in a manger laid;
Then to their flocks, still praising God, return. And their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.**

Luke 2:19-20 ...but Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their fields and flocks, glorifying and praising God for what the angels had told them, and because they had seen the Child, just as the angels had said.

HYMN: TLH #84:5

“Christians, Awake”

**5. Oh, may we keep and ponder in our mind God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss, From His poor manger to His bitter cross,
Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace, Till man's first heavenly state again takes place.**

Revelation 19:4-7 Then the twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down and worshiped God, who was sitting on the throne. They cried out, “Amen! Hallelujah!” And from the throne came a voice that said, “Praise our God, all His servants, from the least to the greatest, all who fear Him.” Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a huge crowd, or the roar Of mighty ocean waves, or the crash of loud thunder: “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice and honor Him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and His Bride has prepared herself.

Revelation 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a beautiful bride prepared for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, the home of God is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God himself will be with them. He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever.”

HYMN: TLH #84:5

“Christians, Awake”

**6. Then may we hope, th' angelic hosts among, To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.
He that was born upon this joyful day Around us all His glory shall display.
Saved by His love, incessant we shall sing Eternal praise to heaven's almighty King. Amen.**

PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

**☩ Our Father in heaven,
All praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us,
Your will done the same
By mortals and angels.
Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us
From heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for
Provide us each day;
As we forgive others,
Our sins take away;
In times of temptation,
to lead us be near;
From evil deliver
Your children most dear,**

Tune of “Away in a Manger”
**For yours is the kingdom;
O'er all things Your reign.
And Yours is the power;
All things You maintain.
To You be the glory,
Resounding again
From all of creation,
Forever! Amen.**

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace. **☩ Amen!**

HYMN: TLH #87

“Joy to the World”

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing.**
- 2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found.**
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love. Amen.**