

Gifts from the Manger

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran
Church & School

December 20, 2020



A portion of our service today has been recorded.
We pray that the message our children have learned and share
with us will bless your worship with us this morning.
May you be reminded of the greatest gift ever given –
a Savior who came down to earth for you.

OPENING HYMN

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

CW 28 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has
 What the fa - thers most de - sired, What the
 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's
 Wel - come O my Sav - ior, now! Joy - ful,
 Crush for me the ser - pent's head That, set
 And, when you shall come a - gain As a

tru - ly kept his word And at last to
 proph - ets' heart in - spired, What they longed for
 help - er, Ja - cob's Lord - Him of two - fold
 Lord to you I bow, Come in - to my
 free from doubt and dread, I may cling to
 glor - ious king to reign, I with joy may

us did send Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 man - y a year Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 race be - hold - Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 heart, I pray; Oh, pre - pare your - self a way.
 you in faith, Safe - ly kept through life and death.
 see your face, Free - ly ran - somed by your grace.

P (Pastor): In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C (Congregation): **Amen.**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for he has done marvelous things;

P: The Lord has made his salvation known

C: and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

P: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;

C: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,

C: burst into jubilant song with music.

P: Let the sea resound, and everything in it,

C: the world, and all who live in it.

P: Let them sing before the Lord,

C: for he comes to judge the earth.

P: He will judge the world in righteousness

C: and the peoples with equity.

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sermon Text

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”



The Perfect Christmas Song

Gifts from the Manger

The children's video portion of our service

Speaker: We gather together from afar to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. If we were to ask anyone "What is a major part of a birthday celebration?" one of the first answers I'm sure we would hear would be "Presents!" Gifts are fun to receive, and some people find great joy in picking out just the right present to give to someone. Today we are going to be talking about gifts. However, these aren't gifts that are for the birthday boy, Jesus. Rather, these gifts are for all of us! Gifts that our gracious God generously gives to us through Jesus. Gifts from the manger!

"Ring Out the Good News!"

Sung by Grades PreK-5

Words & Music by Reynold Kremer Arrangements by Charles Cushinery ©1992 Kremer Publications, Inc.

Refrain: Ring out, ring out the good news and sing out, sing out the good news

Then bring out, bring out the good news this glorious Christmas time.

Come strike, strike every bell 'cause there's something, something to tell

As you sing out, sing out the good news this glorious Christmas time.

We'll sing with the angel chorus, turning each page one by one.

Glad tidings ringing for us, New life has just begun. *Refrain*

We stand here before you telling, hear our glad tidings unfold

United voices swelling, Good news that must be told. *Refrain*

Part 1: God gives us the gift of the WORD made flesh

Speaker: At just the right time, God put his plan of salvation into action. In the gospel of Luke, we hear about an angel who appeared to a young girl named Mary, who was to be married to a man named Joseph. She was probably terrified at the angel's sudden appearance. The angel calmed her fears and told her about the birth of the Savior.

Grades 3-5: *The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."*

Speaker: *“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.”*

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Speaker: God kept his promise; the Messiah finally came. His birth was not heralded by royal trumpets, but occurred simply, humbly, quietly, in the night. He was the answer to generations of prayers as the light to banish all doubt and darkness. The gospel writer John records the Christmas story from heaven’s perspective.



Speaker: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Sung by COR Sunday School
CW 16 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

Part 2: God gives us the gift of a KING



Speaker: The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of King Jesus about 700 years before Jesus was born: *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.”* The people waited, year after year, for the fulfillment of these prophecies, for their King, their Messiah, who would deliver them. We hear in the gospel of Luke ---

Grades 3-5: *In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.*

Grades K-2: *While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

“In a Little Stable”

Sung by Pre-K & Kindergarten

In a Little Stable, far across the sea
Was a little baby, just like you and me.

Not a bed or cradle, not a pillow deep
But a lowly manger, was his place to sleep.

Shepherds stood around him, angels watched with care
For this babe was Jesus, lying, smiling there.

Oh, how I love Jesus, who was little then
For I know he loves me, little though I am.

Part 3: God gives us the gift of JOY

Speaker: This is the season of joy. Mary just had a baby! The shepherds were the first to hear the good news. We hear in Luke *“There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”*

Grades K-2: But the Angel said to them, *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

Speaker: In Isaiah 35 we hear, *“They will enter Zion singing: everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”* Know the joy that is ours this season. Show the joy! Proclaim the Messiah to all!

“Go Tell it on the Mountain” in Spanish

Sung by Grades 3-5
Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

Refrain: Ve, dilo en la montañas Sobre las montes y alredero!
 Ve, dilo ens la montañas Que Cristo ya nació!

 Pastores sus rebaños De noche a cuidar.
 Con gran sorpresa vieron Gloriosa luz brillar. *Refrain*

 Después muy asombrados Oyeron un cantar
 De ángeles en coro Las nuevas proclamar. *Refrain*

 Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born.
 And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.

 Go tell it on the mountain,
 Over the hills and everywhere.
 Go tell it on the mountain,
 That Jesus Christ is born!
 That Jesus Christ is born!

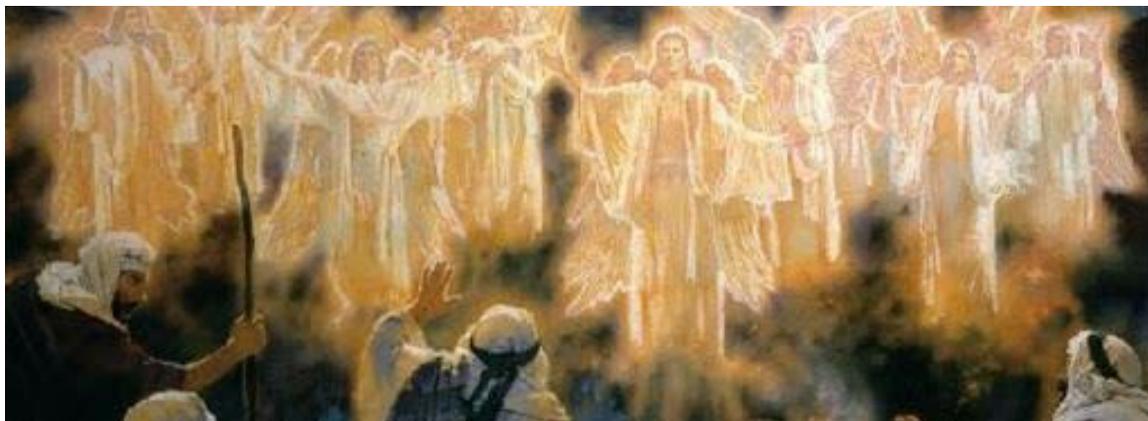
Part 4: God gives us the gift of LOVE

Speaker: From year to year many things can change—where you live, where you go to school, your haircut—but there are some things that do not change over time. People sin. People need a Savior from sin. God loves us and has sent us that Savior. Romans 3 tells us *“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Sunday School: John 3:16 --- *“For God so love the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

Speaker: The angels couldn't contain their joy at the news that Jesus had been born, they joined with the messenger angel in singing praises to God for his gift of love. Luke continues ---

Sunday School: *“Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”*



“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Sung by COR Sunday School
CW 63 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song.
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.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Part 5: God gives us the gift of HOPE

Speaker: I hope I get an iPad for Christmas. I hope life gets back to normal soon. I hope the Broncos make the playoffs. I hope it snows for Christmas. These are all wishes people can have for specific things. They desire them, long for them, hope for them. Yet not one of them can say with absolute certainty that his or her wish will come true.

Speaker: The hope we include as a gift from our manger tonight is different in that it has a sure promise of fulfillment. Through God's gift of love, our Savior offers to all who believe in him the sure hope of heaven. We hear in Titus *"Having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."*

Speaker: In First Peter 1 we read *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade --- kept in heaven for you."*

"Away in a Manger"

Sung by Grades Pre-K-5
CW 68 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray,
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with you there.

Part 6: God gives us the gifts of LIGHT and HOPE and PEACE

Speaker: Into a world of darkness, God shone his glorious light. From the skies full of light and angels to the star that guided the wise men, God signaled to all people that Jesus was born. His promise of salvation is a light in the minds and hearts of all who hear the news and believe Jesus was born to be the one, true light to guide our lives and show us the way to salvation. Jesus said ---

Grades K-2: *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

Speaker: Hand in hand with the love God gave and the hope he brings is the new life he offers through faith in Christ Jesus. We hear in Second Corinthians *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”*

Speaker: Galatians 2 tells us, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

Speaker: Peace is not always the first word that comes to mind when one thinks about Christmas. It can be a rather busy and noisy time with people rushing about, shopping to do and traditions to uphold. Yet, peace is the gift Christ brings us. John tells us in the fourteenth chapter of his gospel--

Grades 3-5: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

Speaker: This is not a worldly “peace and harmony among men” kind of peace, although that is a wonderful thing we could pray for. Rather, this is the peace between God and man that results from Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. Because Christ was punished for all our sins, we can stand blameless and holy before God. Through faith in Christ and his redeeming grace, we have God’s gift of peace.

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

Sung by Grades K-5
CW 60:1 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.



Prayer

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. 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 Lord's Supper

Our church practices membership communion.

We ask that only members partake of the sacrament.

You will be guided to the table by an usher.

Your group may come forward together. Please practice social distancing with other groups or individuals. The bread and wine are laid out individually for you to remove from the table.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

P: We thank you, God our Father, for sending your Son Jesus to enter this world in all humility and to suffer and die for the sins of the whole world. Strengthen us through the bread and wine, his true body and blood, given and poured out for our forgiveness, and preserve us in true faith until at last he comes again. In his name we pray.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

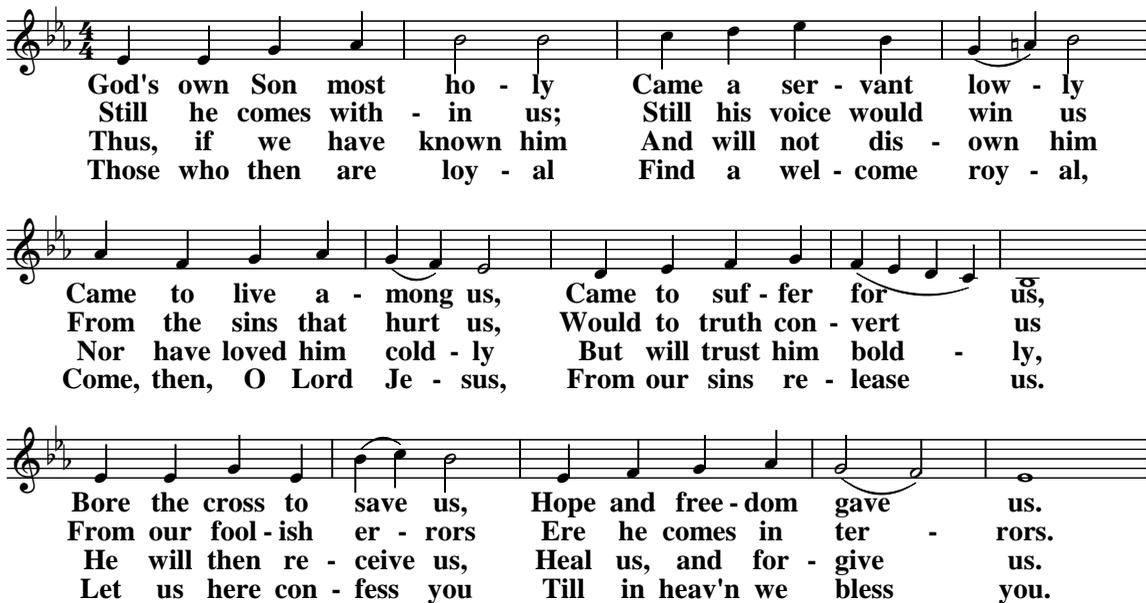
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“God’s Own Son Most Holy”

CW 17 Text, Tune: Public Domain Setting: ©1984 Jack Warren Burnam



God's own Son most ho - ly Came a ser - vant low - ly
Still he comes with - in us; Still his voice would win us
Thus, if we have known him And will not dis - own him
Those who then are loy - al Find a wel - come roy - al,
Came to live a - mong us, Came to suf - fer for us,
From the sins that hurt us, Would to truth con - vert us
Nor have loved him cold - ly But will trust him bold - ly,
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re - lease us.
Bore the cross to save us, Hope and free - dom gave us.
From our fool - ish er - rors Ere he comes in ter - rors.
He will then re - ceive us, Heal us, and for - give us.
Let us here con - fess you Till in heav'n we bless you.

POINSETTIAS: If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be used at COR during the Christmas Season and then taken home by you, please contact Teresa Miller 303-969-8143 or teresam11757@gmail.com.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Your 2021 offering envelopes are in your COR mailbox. Please make certain to pick them up. We praise God for your offerings and remind you that if you give electronically, envelope numbers still need to be assigned for tracking reasons.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Eve - Noon & 6p

Christmas Day – 9a

Sunday, December 27 – 9a

New Year’s Eve – 7p