



Intro to the Day

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.



Service of the Word and Responsive Prayer
A Service of Lessons and Hymns—The Name of Jesus

Our worship liturgy uses *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
the cranberry red hymnal in your pew.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Chimes

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

**God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources,
and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs
of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are
reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our
trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of
eternal life in you. Amen**

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God’s
promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the
salvation of God. **Amen**



Gathering Hymn: *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*
ELW #620 **Verses 1, 5, 6, & 7**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Please be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Litany

The angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” As we gather, we hear again the good news the angels proclaim:

God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus.

Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world.

In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love.

We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

O Come, let us adore him!

Lesson: Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

²²The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

God commanded Aaron to say these words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with God’s name and God’s blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into the world.



Today's worship uses readings and responses connected to the three ways Jesus interacts with humankind: We focus on the ways God comes to us in Jesus as Savior, Christ, and Lord. The word of God is proclaimed, and we reflect upon it, letting the word "dwell in us richly" (Colossians 3:16). Scripture reading is surrounded by silence, communal song, psalmody, and other readings, reflections, or actions that illumine the word. These may follow one after another or may be woven into a meditative whole.

²⁴The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.
Word of God, Word of Life, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8 (Read responsively)

Lord, our God, the whole world tells the greatness of your name.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Even the babble of infants declares your strength—

You hold the power to halt the enemy and avenger.

I see your handiwork in the heavens:

the moon and stars you set in place.

What is humankind that you remember them?

the human race that you care for them?

You treat them like gods, dressing them in glory and splendor.

You give them charge over the earth, laying all at their feet.

Cattle and sheep, wild beasts. Birds of the sky, fish of the sea, every swimming creature.

Lord our God, the whole creation tells the greatness of your name.

For Unto You is Born a SAVIOR, who is Christ the Lord Matthew 1:18-21

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 12:2-4

² Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.



³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

**For Unto You is Born a Savior, who is CHRIST the Lord
John 1:19-23, 29-34**

19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ ²¹And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ ²²Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’

²³He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord”’, as the prophet Isaiah said.

29 The next day [John] saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’ ³⁰This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.’ ³²And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.’ ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’



Responsive Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;

**He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the
captives, and release to the prisoners;**

² to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

**³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a
garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of
mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.**

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Hymn: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ELW #272

**For Unto You is Born a Savior, who is Christ the LORD
Luke 1:26-33**

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'



Responsive Reading: Isaiah 52:7, 9-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger:
**Who announces peace, who brings good news, who
announces salvation,**

Who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

*Eight days after his birth,
Jesus is circumcised
according to Jewish law and
given the name announced
by the angel before his
conception.*

+++++

*This early Christian hymn
points to Christ's self-
emptying obedience on the
cross as cause for his
exaltation by God and
worthy of praise by the
entire cosmos.*



Gospel: Luke 2:20-21

²⁰The shepherds returned [to Bethlehem], glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Responsive Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

⁷**but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form.**

⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn of the Day: *That Boy Child of Mary* ELW #293

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Prayers of Intercession

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Holy God, you have given the church the holy name of Jesus, and in him we are your beloved children. Unite us in mission through the power of his Spirit. Make us worthy of the name we bear, the name in which we pray.

God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Peacemaking God, reconcile the nations. Lead those in conflict into negotiation, especially in areas of religious or ethnic strife.

We pray for those in need:

Ted and Mardy Lazaris; Jay, Ryder, and Riley Lindahl, grieving the death of Kerry; Dick Voegeli; Joani Bettin; Kenny, brother of Joyce Weinert, who is hospitalized with a brain tumor; Christina, daughter of Kathy Imp, who is having back surgery; Family and friends grieving the death of Tammy Vazquez (Nowakowski); Sue Clark, grieving the death of mother-in-law Angie Lange; Betty Wing; Susan Wilde; Mary Anne Markiewicz; Wally Stasiewski; Doug Hamilton (spouse of Lori Hamilton); Jerry (Bruce Crueger's brother); Bob (friend of Bob & Connie Yersin); Karen (Sandy Ringwall's sister); Joy Braun (friend of Sue Clark); Amy & Family (friends of Kathy Wakefield); Jackie (niece of Jan Rinderle); Eric (Crystal's brother)

We continue to pray for strength and recovery for:

Tom Nowakowski; Kathy and John Imp; Marylee Dye; Craig Beyler; Ruth & Bob Bauer; Pat Koch; Jeff & Kelly Faltersack for a continued healthy pregnancy

We keep in our prayers:

Dawn (friend of Sandy and Bob Young); Pat (Cousin of Donna Babilus); Bruce (friend of Joyce Weinert); Scott and Debbie (family of Margaret Duris); Keith (Sandy Eigner's brother-in-law); Susan (Darlene Witkowiak's daughter); Jeremy (Tom Nowakowski's nephew); Caroline (Jill Lindberg's daughter); Shelby and the family of Taylor Daniels (friends of Crystal Januchowski)

End acts of aggression and violence carried out in your name.
God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Delivering God, rescue our siblings in any danger, especially in communities where disaster and disease threaten. Move those in authority to respond with speed and compassion. We pray for the safety of first responders, health care workers, and all who protect us. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, raise up any who are bowed down with illness or sorrow. Deepen our care and concern for one another. We lift to you all who are undergoing transition in relationships, occupation, living situation, or health condition, especially those we name before you now. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Saving God, redeem us and grant us eternal peace. We give thanks for the faithful departed who now rest in your undying love, made known to us in Jesus our Emmanuel.
God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen**

Sharing of the Christmas Peace

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may the God of our salvation grant you peace and joy, hope and gladness.

And also with you.

Please share signs of peace with those in your vicinity.

You may remain standing in body or spirit.

Today we give our tithes and offerings by bringing them forth as we depart near the baptismal font.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We pray for the following with our siblings across the ELCA:

For the new year...

For rescue workers and utility workers during winter storms and for all who suffered damages, cancellations, injuries, or deaths due to the extreme weather...

For those struggling to afford heat and electricity...

For teachers and students returning to school after the holidays...

For the women of Iran and Afghanistan and all fighting for gender justice...

For peace between North and South Korea...

For the aboriginal people of Australia enduring the desecration of sacred sites...

For those affected by the cholera outbreak in Haiti...

For those celebrating Christmastide, Yule, Kwanzaa, and all other winter holidays...

For peace in Ukraine and all countries torn apart by war...

*Lord, in your mercy,
Receive Our Prayer.*



Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: **renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.**

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Remember us, O Christ, and teach us to pray:

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

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Let us go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God. Amen**

Sending Hymn: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*
ELW #288

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Today's Lay Leaders

Lector: Jeanette
Nowakowski

Ushers: Bob & Connie
Yersin

Altar Guild: Deanna Posig

**Music & Worship
Coordinator:**
Barb Regent



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* If you have a need that falls outside of these days/hours, please send an email or call the main number. *



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Adoration Lutheran Church! We are glad you have joined us for this special season in our faith lives, and in our world. How beautiful it is that God chooses to meet us in the flesh of our lived reality. May the grace and hope of Christ's birth sustain you throughout the year, as we remember Luke the storyteller's promise:
Salvation now has come to earth.

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome!

If you're back to celebrate Christmas with family and friends, welcome back.
We're glad to see you.

If you'd like to learn more about Adoration, please sign the guest register by the entrance doors.