



SERVICE ORDER
Sunday, 25th December
Christmas Day



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**Almighty God,
you enlighten us with the new light
of your incarnate Word.
May we show in our deeds
the light that by faith shines in our hearts.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCE: Luke 2:10-11

But the angel said to them,

*“do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people.
Today in David’s town a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the lord.”*

But the angel said to them,

**“do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people.
Today in David’s town a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the lord.”**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

LHS 625 CHRISTIANS AWAKE

**Christians, awake, salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour 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.**

**Like Mary, let us ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving humankind;
trace we the Babe, who has retrieved our loss,
from His poor manger to His bitter cross;
tread in His steps, assisted by His grace,
until in heaven God's people take their place.**

**There may we hope, the angelic thrones 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, unceasing we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.**

John Byrom (1692-1763), alt.

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

PSALM 97

¹The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

²Clouds and thick darkness surround him;

righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

³Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.

⁴His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

⁵The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.

A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us

⁷All who worship images are put to shame,

those who boast in idols— worship him, all you gods!

A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us

⁸Zion hears and rejoices

and the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments, LORD.

⁹For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;

you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones

and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

¹¹Light shines^[a] on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

¹²Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.**

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray that we shine as lights in the world.

[silence]

*Thank you, loving Father,
for filling the world with the new light
of your Word who became a human being.*

*Keep the flame of faith and love
burning in our hearts and shining in our lives.
For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6-12 Your Saviour comes (NIV)

⁶ I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: "Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled; ⁹ but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary." ¹⁰ Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. ¹¹ The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'" ¹² They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

*After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.*

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7 Saved by God's love (NIV)

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth. Alleluia.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: : Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20 The shepherds hear the good news of the birth of Christ (NIV)

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

² In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were

shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

Lord Jesus, thank you for being born a baby in Bethlehem.

Help us always to give glory and praise to God.

Amen.

APOSTLE’S CREED

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

And 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence 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**

LHS 627 JOY TO THE WORLD

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns: Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love.**

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon,
or Read and Discuss the Sermon

For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))

The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.

For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

LHS 29 COME, YOUR HEARTS AND VOICES RAISING

Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness
praising; loudly sing His love amazing, worthy folk of Christendom.

Christ, from heaven to us descending, and in love our race befriending,
in our need His help extending, saved us from the wily foe.

Jacob's Star in all its splendour beams with comfort sweet and tender,
forcing Satan to surrender, breaking all the powers of hell.

From the bondage that oppressed us, from sin's fetters that possessed us,
from the grief that sore distressed us, we, the captives, now are free.

O the joy, beyond expressing, when by faith we grasp this blessing
and to You we come confessing, that Your love has set us free.

Gracious Child, we pray You, hear us, from Your lowly manger cheer us,
gently lead us and be near us till we join Your choir above.

Paul Gerhardt 1607-76. Tr 'The Lutheran Hymnal' (St Louis, 1941) alt

OFFERING PRAYER

*Lord, help us to take the angel's message to heart,
and to realise that the birth of Jesus our Saviour
is good news for us and for all people.*

*Lead us to give glory to you
by a life of joyful service
to you and to other people.*

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- A. We have celebrated Christmas with Mary and Joseph.
- B. We have rejoiced with the angels and the shepherds.
- A. We have celebrated the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord.
- B. Lord, you came to live among us, caring, loving and healing us.
- A. Make us your arms, your hands and your feet.
- B. Use us to care for your people.
- C. **Lord Jesus, be with us.**

- A. Lord, you bring peace with God and pardon.
- B. Bring peace to our hearts and love to our homes.
- A. Guide the nations; let there be justice; let there be hope.
- C. **Lord Jesus, be with us.**

- B. Lord, you blessed the home of Mary and Joseph.
- A. Bless our homes this Christmas and make our families a blessing to others.
- B. You were born in a stable, then driven out as a refugee.
- A. Shelter the homeless.
- B. Open our hearts to those in need.
- C. **Lord Jesus, be with us.**

- A. Lord, you were born among the poor.
- B. You experienced hurt and pain and disappointment.
- A. Strengthen the weak.
- B. Care for the sick.
- A. Comfort those who are suffering.
- C. **Lord Jesus, be with us.**

- B. Lord, you bring joy to all people.
- A. Be a friend to the lonely.
- B. Lift up the depressed.
- A. Your birth brings new life to the world.
- B. Give life and health to all babies,
- A. to the unborn, and to those who are born this night.
- B. Go with the dying into their darkness,
- A. and lead them to resurrection.

- C. **Lord Jesus, be with us.**
- B. Be with us tonight/today and always.
- A. Be with us as we journey through this life and when our life here ends,
- B. so that we may see your glory in heaven,
- A. and with the angels and all your people,
- B. praise the heavenly Father,
- C. **now and forever. Amen.**

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.
 Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.
God be praised forevermore.
The LORD bless us and keep us.
The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.
Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May God's peace and favour rest on you this day and always.
May God's peace and favour rest on you this day and always.

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace, and live in the joy of Christmas.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

LHS 630 O THOU HOLIEST, O THOU HAPPIEST

**O thou holiest, O thou happiest, Grace-bestowing Christmastide!
Christ in a manger Saves from all danger: O rejoice, ye Christians far and
wide!**

**O thou holiest, O thou happiest, Peace-proclaiming Christmastide!
Christ's light is beaming, Mankind redeeming: O rejoice, ye Christians far
and wide!**

**O thou holiest, O thou happiest, Life-imparting Christmastide!
Angels from glory Chant the great story: O rejoice, ye Christians far and
wide!**

Johannes Daniel Falk

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

LHS

243 How beauteous are their feet* G5

487 Wake, awake for night is flying (v 2)* G6

Second reading: Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12)

LHS

20 O Jesus Christ, all praise to Thee* G4

21 Of the Father's love begotten G7

822 God has spoken by his prophets G6

AT

244 We have seen the Word of Life

Gospel: John 1:1-14

LHS

- 19 Come, Thou Saviour of our race * G4
- 20 O Jesus Christ, all praise to Thee * G4
- 21 Of the Father's love begotten G7
- 26 Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men * G4
- 31 Arise, my soul, sing joyfully * G7
- 33 Hark! the herald angels sing G4
- 34 O come, all ye faithful G7
- 632 Once in royal David's city G7
- 633 O little town of Bethlehem G4
- 783 Christ is the world's light G6
- 822 God has spoken by his prophets G6

AT

- 128 I am the Light of the world
- 132 Lift this Child to the sun
- 141 Born in the night
- 217 Shine, Jesus, shine
- 244 We have seen the Word of life
- 329 This kingdom
- 431 Goodness is stronger than evil