



SERVICE ORDER

Sunday, 31 December 2023
First Sunday After Christmas



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Almighty and eternal God,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure.

Make us rich in good works,
in the name of your dear Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph, God is there.

When Jesus is presented at the temple, God is there.

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms, God is there.

When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple, God is there.

In the future we cannot see, God is there.

Praise to be God who is with us always.

Let us delight in the Lord our God.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

**Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat 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
Far as the curse is found
Far as 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
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love**

**George Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts
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CONFESSION OF SINS

*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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LORD HAVE MERCY

(spoken)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

SONG OF ADORATION

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

**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 songs of happy cheer
what great brightness did you see
what glad tidings did you hear:**

*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 new-born King:**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

James Chadwick

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Lord God, as we gather in your presence,
move us by your Holy Spirit.**

Open our hearts to recognise Jesus, our ever-present Messiah.

**Fill us with your peace and the hope of our salvation,
so that our whole lives may be full of your praise.**

In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.

PSALM 148

¹ Praise the LORD.^[a]

*Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.*

*² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.*

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

*⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for at his command they were created,
⁶ and he established them for ever and ever –
he issued a decree that will never pass away.*

*⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,
⁹ you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,
¹² young men and women, old men and children.*

*¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.*

*¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.*

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

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10- 62:3 The Lord will save his people

¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. **62** For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. ²The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. ³You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7 God sent his Son to free us

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40 Simeon and Anna see Jesus

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'. ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.' ³³ The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.' ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

NOEL

**Love incarnate love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born
He shall reign forevermore**

**Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel**

**Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore**

**Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel**

**Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Redman
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MESSAGE

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

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**

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

**Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart**

**Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne**

**Charles Wesley, Rowland Hugh Prichard
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OFFERING PRAYER

**Heavenly Father, thank you for all you have given us,
and especially for the gift of your Son into our world and our lives.
Give us faith like Simeon and Anna to worship you with all we have,
blessing others through our words and our actions. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In the birth of our Saviour, we have seen the salvation that God has prepared in the presence of all peoples. Let us pray to God our Father for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father: we give you thanks for the leaders of your church throughout the world and for the leaders of the Lutheran Church of Australia, especially our Bishop Paul Smith and District Bishop Mark Vainikka. Help them to boldly lead the church in caring for the vulnerable among us- the sick, the poor, the unborn, the orphaned and the elderly.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We uplift to you in prayer our pastors, teachers, and church workers. Bless their work and encourage their hearts when they feel disappointed or that their efforts are having no effect. Help all your people to shine the light of Christmas into the lives of others so that more people may come to know your love and salvation.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Bless our elected leaders and all in authority. May their decisions and actions always be working for peace and justice. Protect all who serve in our armed forces, particularly those who are far away from home at this time, and all whose work is dangerous or difficult.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Bless our families. Help us to learn to pray together and grow in faith. We pray that you would comfort those who are hurting because of family problems and bring peace where there is conflict. Be with those who are experiencing difficulties in their marriages: help to open the channels of communication and forgiveness. Protect the lives of children not yet born and grant that parents will cherish the life entrusted to their care.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hospitalized, or suffering. May they trust in you as their helper, the upholder of their lives, and their healer. We pray for the elderly, that you will sustain them in faith and let their example encourage the whole church.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Protect all who travel, so that they may arrive safely at their destinations. In the midst of our Christmas celebrations help us remember those whose holiday joy has become sorrow for any reason.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, you remember your promises, and you give your life and salvation to those who wait for you. Hear our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 TO SHARE

May the Holy Spirit be upon you.
May the Holy Spirit be upon you.
May the presence of Jesus fill you with joy.
May the presence of Jesus fill you with joy.
May the love of your Heavenly Father bring you peace.
May the love of your Heavenly Father bring you peace.
Amen.

THERE IS A REDEEMER

**There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God.
Messiah, Holy one.**

**Thank you, O our Father
for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit till
your work on earth is done.**

**Jesus my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God.
Messiah, O for sinners slain.**

**Thank you, O our Father
for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit till
your work on earth is done.**

**When I stand in glory
I will see his face
And there I'll serve my King forever.
In that holy place.**

**Thank you, O our Father
for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit till
your work on earth is done.**

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HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

LHS

- 67 And can it be, that I should gain (*tune: TIS 209*)
215 Arise, O God, and shine*
327 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness* G3

AT

- 130 I am covered over
217 Shine, Jesus, shine

Second reading: Galatians 4:4-7

LHS

- 25 To shepherds as they watched* G4
26 Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men G4
32 O rejoice, ye Christians, loudly G7
33 Hark, the herald angels sing G4
323 Blessed are the sons of God* G4
805 We are heirs of the Father GS
901 Our Father, you from heaven above G5

AT

- 12 We are heirs of the Father
251 God sends us his Spirit

TIS

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

LHS

- 21 Of the Father's love begotten G7
38 In peace and joy I now depart* G4
44 Thou Light of gentile nations* G4
898 Now, Lord, you let your servant go GS
900 O Lord, now let your servant G6

AT

- 104 Now, Lord, you let your servant go