

Christmas Day At-Home Worship



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HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Christmas Day At-Home Worship

(On Christmas Day, find a video on our Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/holynativitynewhope>. Use this bulletin to follow along!)

Christmas Greeting

Rev. Ashley Updegraff

HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"

Hymnal #288

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Opening Prayer

Psalm 98

O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

²The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

⁸Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

⁹at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

John 1:1-5, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Story: Excerpts from *Manger*, by Lee Bennett Hopkins

Response to Story—what would you say? What do you say? Create your own poem!

We just heard how animals, when given the power to speak on Christmas Eve, responded to the child lying before them—Jesus, our Savior! How might you have responded if you were there that night? How do you respond, right now, to this good news that is for you: that God has come to live with us, forever?! Think about that. At what your initial response is to this life-changing birth. And then take some time today to write your own little poem—like the ones we heard in the story. Share your poems with your family over lunch or dinner, and email your favorites to me! God has done the unthinkable in taking on our flesh and being born as a baby to show us the way of peace and love. That’s worth commenting on!

Prayer:

It is you, loving God, who lights our path. You are our light, Jesus. Our way, our truth, and our life. Draw us all to the manger to watch in adoration with Mary and Joseph. Draw us all to the manger to gather in wonder with the shepherds. Draw us all to the manger to kneel in reverence with the wise ones. Draw us all to the manger to sing for joy with the angels. Draw us all to the manger to welcome you with all the creatures you have made, both great and small. Through your light, cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and violence in the world. Through your light, drive away demons of sickness, despair, and isolation. Walk with us as we share your love, joy, peace, and hope to all we meet. By your light, O Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Blessing:

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

May the Word that the shepherds lovingly glorified fill you and this world with love.

May the Word that wise men traveled far to see walk with you as you journey.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

The blessing of our almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen

Join us for worship Sundays at 9:30am in-person or online!

Learn more about Holy Nativity here:

<https://holynativity.net/>