



CONCORDIA

Lutheran Church
Preschool & University Ministry

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FREE FROM THE GUARDIAN

AS WE GATHER

A new year begins! Yet, often so little changes. For most, a new year means little difference regarding life, vocation, house, and home. Outside of annually changing one number on our calendar, much of life remains the same, including the daily battles we face against Satan, sin, and our own flesh. With that, we rejoice today not just in the year's changing, but a daily changing we recognize every day as we live in this world through the blameless One born for us. Christ was under and has fulfilled God's Law perfectly for us, even as an infant child brought to the temple for circumcision under Mosaic Law. It would mark both the promise of redemption and the burden of the Law—and with Jesus marking the sacrifice that would set us free. Try as we might with new year's resolutions to become better people, we still find ourselves falling short of God's moral law that remains today. Rejoice in the newness that has come! More than a new year, we are given a new life, for Christ has fulfilled all and set us free! As we are marked in Baptism and bear Christ's name, we become inheritors of His promise. It is a newness to celebrate each day of every year!

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING SENTENCES

Galatians 3:24–26; 4:4–5

P Christ, our Savior is born!

C O come, let us adore Him!

P When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

C O come, let us adore Him!

P The law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

C O come, let us adore Him!

379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

sts. 1, ref, 2-4



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.

Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

John 8:34; Galatians 3:23; 5:1

P As we begin a new year in God's grace, we acknowledge and repent of our sinfulness and failure to keep His Law. "Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

C Lord, we confess to You our sins, those of which we know, and those of which we are unaware. We have not always viewed Your Law as a gift, but instead at times as a burden to obey. Though we desire to be free, we find ourselves enslaved and unable to help ourselves. Forgive us.

- P** “Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.”
- C** **For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your Law and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**
- P** “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 40:6–8; antiphon: 40:16

Men: **May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”**

Women: **Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

Men: **Then I said, “Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:**

Women: **I desire to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.”**

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

Men: **May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”**

368 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt. Text and tune: French Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 6:22–27

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

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.

²⁷“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 8; antiphon: v. 9

Men: **O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.**

Women: **Out of the mouth of babes and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.**

Men: **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,**

Women: **what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?**

Men: **Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.**

Women: **You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,**

Men: **all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,**

Women: **the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

Men: **O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

GRADUAL

Hebrews 8:10; 10:17

P This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

C after those days, declares the Lord:

P I will put My laws into their minds,

C and write them on their hearts.

P I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

C I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.

EPISTLE

Galatians 3:23–29

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into

Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Matthew 1:21

Alleluia. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

388 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt.

Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

OFFERING

CREED

Nicene Creed

☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

John 3:16, adapted; 16:33; Galatians 4:4–5, adapted

🙏 Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Ever-present God, You are Lord of our past, our present, and our future. We know that all we need for this body and life and all we would ever need for the peace of our souls in the

forgiveness of sins comes from You. For Your care in the past year and for Your gracious promises in this new year assured in Christ alone,

C we praise You, Lord.

P Ever-living God, we know that no matter the year or new beginnings, we are not strangers to Christ's words, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Be with the leaders of the nations, states, and local communities that wisdom be given for the justice and well-being of others. In times of tribulation, grant us Your peace. In times of trials, grant us a confident faith. In times of troubles, remind us of Your living presence and draw us to Your Word and Means of Grace. For the gifts of grace You supply for our every need each year and each day,

C we praise You, Lord.

P Ever-compassionate God, for those who have needs known to us, [*including . . .*], and for those whose needs of body and soul are known only to You, we lift them up in prayer and commend them to Your ever-present care. Through trials and tribulations, suffering and struggles, set them free from their burdens and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Ever-gracious God, You so loved this world that You gave Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. In this continuing Christmas season and each day of this new year, continue to draw us to our Savior Jesus Christ, born for us, that we follow Him who would ultimately die for us, rising to victory and ascending to glory. As we do, equip and sustain us through Your Holy Spirit that we witness the truth of Your Word centered on our Savior to all whom You place in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All-knowing God, though You are not bound by the limits of time, we are as we remain in this world and recognize another year's passing and another new beginning. Yet in Your divine wisdom, when the time was right, You sent Your Son into this world to be born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law that we be Your children, now and forever. Help us seek to live according to Your Law that we may remain faithful to Your truth according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Additional petitions may follow.

P In this new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

384 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

359 LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

370 WHAT CHILD IS THIS

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST

Tune of Auld Lang Syne

- 1 Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
- 2 To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ!
- 3 His will be done
His kingdom come
On earth, as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love

Ref. All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!

4 Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ!

Ref. All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!

5 When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new.

6 Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be
All glory be to Christ!

Ref. All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign will ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!

Text: Dustin Kensrue

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Prayers

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Prayers of thanks for **Isaac Grindeland, and Larry Branen** who are celebrating their birthdays.

Thanksgiving for **Eric & Trish Bechtel and Glenn and Kathy Houser** as they celebrate their wedding anniversary.

Prayers of Comfort and Healing

For all who suffer from **mental health concerns**.

Prayers for comfort and understanding for **all those who are battling cancer**.

Baby **Griffin and his sibling** who has kidney problems.

Comfort for the friends and families of the murder victims in Moscow.

Healing for Sally's mom Sue who has eye problems.

Healing for **Linda Sitze** who has a decline in strength and health for unknow reason along with a Kidney failure.

Healing for **Margaret & Harlem Sandberg**.

Other Prayers

Safety for **all who are traveling**.

All who serve in our **armed forces** and their **families**.

Can we pray for you? Share your prayer requests by email at office@concordiapullman.org or fill out one of the white cards in the pews and place it in the offering plate.