

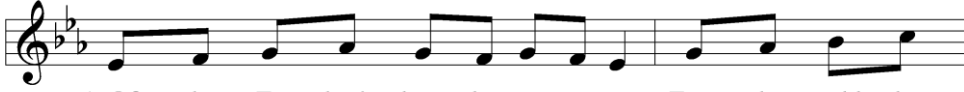
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025

“A Christmas Hymn for the Heart”

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #384 *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE OPENING SENTENCES

P: Isaiah writes: I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD,

**C: according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel**

P: that He has granted them according to His compassion,

C: according to the abundance of His steadfast love.

P: For He said, "Surely they are My people, children who will not deal falsely."

C: And He became their Savior. (Isaiah 63:7–8)

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: O almighty God,

C: Merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and Iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: 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.

(please be seated)

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 111

P: Praise the LORD!

C: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart.

P: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

C: Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

P: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

C: He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

P: He has shown His people the power of His works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

C: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;

P: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

C: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

P: Holy and awesome is His name!

C: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

P: all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

**C: 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.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #362 *"O Sing of Christ"*



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved;
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

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THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 63:7-14 (ESV)

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that He has granted them according to His compassion, according to the abundance of His steadfast love. For He said, “Surely they are My people, children who will not deal falsely.” And He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; therefore He turned to be their enemy, and Himself fought against them. Then He remembered the days of old, of Moses and His people. Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock? Where is He who put in the midst of them His Holy Spirit, who caused His glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So You led Your people, to make for Yourself a glorious name.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)

But 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. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE HYMN #361 “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” (verse 4)

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when [the Wise Men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” (*Hosea 11:1*) Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the Wise Men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the Wise Men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in

Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” (*Jeremiah 31:15*) But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that He would be called a Nazarene.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' 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, died and was 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.

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SERMON *“A Christmas Hymn for the Heart”*

Texts: Luke 2:4-16, John 1:14, Matthew 20:28, John 17:23

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #372 "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"



1 O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is My
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey Doth
 3 Thy light and grace Our guilt ef - face, Thy
 4 Thou Chris - tian heart, Who - e'er thou art, Be

par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.
 come to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
 heav'n - ly rich - es all our loss re - triev - ing.
 of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee!

For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made
 Thou, God's own Son, With us art one, Dost
 Im - man - u - el, Thy birth doth quell The
 For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild, Joins

flesh for us; here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.
 join us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
 pow'r of hell and Sa - tan's bold de - ceiv - ing.
 thee to Him; how great - ly God must love thee!

5 Remember thou What glory now

**The Lord prepared thee
 for all earthly sadness.**

The angel host Can never boast

Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6 The world may hold Her wealth and gold;

**But thou, my heart, keep Christ
 as thy true treasure.**

To Him hold fast Until at last

A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

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THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord, in Your mercy," "hear our prayer.")

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(printed inside the back cover of the hymnal)*

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✕ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #390 *"Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"*



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
There-fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS