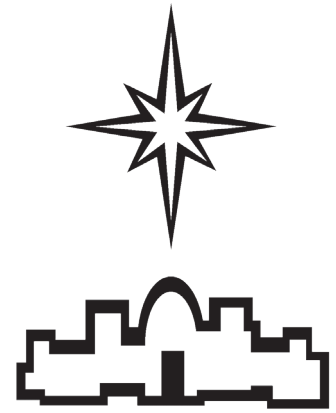


Christmas Day

December 25, 2026

Nativity of Our Lord (Year B)

When Jesus came into the world, a new King began to reign over Zion as well as the whole world. This King was different from any of the kings of Israel and Judah who came before him. His was the way of peace, and his life ushered in a new reality for all who believe, a reality that is marked by grace and mercy rather than adherence to the law that cannot save. In the King of kings is true freedom and salvation.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Bearer of Good News

The prophet Isaiah declared that the one who would bring the good news was the one who would say, "Your God reigns." This message was a call for singing joyfully as salvation was coming from the Lord. He would bring comfort to the people as he returned to Zion.

Psalm 2

Today I Have Begotten You

This royal psalm was a warning to the kings of the earth that a new king was coming — the Son who was begotten of the Father. All who took refuge in him would be blessed. His inheritance was everything on earth, and it was advised that all would serve him.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)

God Speaks Through His Son

The author of Hebrews asserted that never, not once, did God say to an angel that which he has said to his only begotten Son: "You are my Son!" This one was the exact imprint of the Father and therefore showed the world who God truly is: a God of radiance and majesty. The Son is seated at God's right hand, but he did not take that special place until he made purification for sin.

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14 (15-18)

The Word of God

The Word of God that was in the beginning with God, through whom all things were made, came to dwell among humanity. In the Word is life, and he is the light of all people. The religious leaders surrounding John the Baptist wanted to know if John himself was "the one." John denied this, saying he was simply the voice crying in the wilderness — the one pointing to the light, but not the light himself.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White
- Use the Nicene Creed.
- Light all four candles on the Advent wreath as well as the Christ candle.
- Read the Incarnational Gospel as a choral reading emphasizing the Word of God that existed in the beginning and through whom all things were made. (See the Christmas Day page on SOWeR for a copy.)
- It's easy to lift up our voices in praise of Jesus at Christmastime. But what about when the fanfare is over? When the gift wrap has been tossed in the trash and everything has been put away until next year's celebration? May we proclaim his glory every day of the year!

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
At the Start There Was the Logos	---	---	---	---	---	web
A Birth, It Is a Glorious Thing	---	---	---	---	---	web
O Come, All Ye Faithful	45	---	395	308	129	129
Joy to the World!	39	---	387	267	123	123
Of the Father's Love Begotten	42	---	384	295	120	120
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice	55	---	475	385	158	158
Go Tell it on the Mountain	70	---	388	290	---	web
Once in Royal David's City	---	643	376	269	---	---
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	---	---	---	---	---	web
I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day	---	---	---	---	111	111

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Mary, Did You Know
(CCLI# 839225)
Light of the World
(CCLI# 934807)
Word of God, Speak
(CCLI# 3912788)
The Spirit of Christmas
(CCLI# 2522784)
Noel
(CCLI# 7050419)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.