

## Christmas Day Worship for Use by Licensed Worship Leaders

*The Hymns selected in this service may be changed as desired. If candles are used, they should be lighted before the Opening Hymn. The worship leaders and acolytes may process to the front during the Opening Hymn, or the leaders may begin from the front of the church.*

### **Opening Hymn or Song: 83 “O come, all ye faithful”**

*The people standing, the Licensed Minister says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.

*The Minister then says:*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*All join in saying the following hymn*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **The Collect of the Day**

The Minister says to the people

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Minister* Let us pray.

*The Minister says the Collect for Christmas*

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

People Amen.

### **The Lessons**

The people sit

A Reading (Lesson) from The Old Testament . **Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who rings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*After the Reading, the Reader may say*

The word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow*

The Psalm is read together

### **Psalm 96**

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

### **A Reading from The New Testament: Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

[For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;  
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will never end."]

*After the Reading, the Reader may say*

The word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

***Hymn or song: 79 "O little town of Bethlehem"***

Then the Minister reads the Gospel, first saying

A Reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

*After the reading, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**A Reflection on the Gospel**

*Here the Minister may lead a simple Gospel Based Discipleship discussion of the Christmas Gospel, or may simply tell the congregation what word or phrase stood out for him or her and what the minister thought the Christmas Story was saying to him or her in that word or phrase. Or the minister may simply invite the people to sit silently for a period to think about the Gospel.*

Then is said, all standing

**The Nicene Creed** (*Prayer Book pg. 358*)

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **The Prayers of the People**

*The Minister introduces the Prayers of the People saying:*

Let us pray.

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The Minister concludes with this prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

## **The Offering**

*The Minister says:*

In the joy of Christmas, let us with gladness present our offerings to the Lord.

*The people are invited to give their offerings. A person assigned collects the offerings*

**Hymn during the Offering: 87 “Hark! the herald angels sing”**

*At the end of the hymn, the offerings are brought forward while all sing the Doxology (“Praise God from whom all blessings flow....”)*

**The Lord’s Prayer** (*Prayer Book page 364*)

The Minister then says:

And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Minister may conclude the service by saying:*

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Closing hymn: 100 “Joy to the world!”**

*An Elder, Chief, or the Worship Leader says*



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

*The service ends with the following dismissal*

Merry Christmas! Let us bless the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God. Merry Christmas*