



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024

7:30 p.m.

PRESERVICE MUSIC AND CAROLING (see special folder)

CHORAL PRELUDE "Do You Hear What I Hear"

arr. Emily Crocker

WELCOME

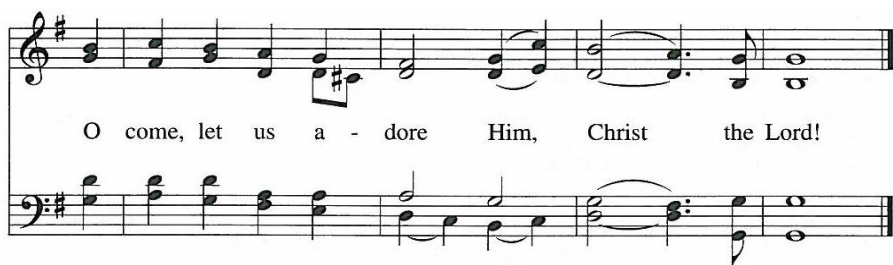
HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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,

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!

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:

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



Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.;
Spanish tr. Juan Bautista Cabrera, 1837–1916
Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, setting: *The Hymnal* 1940

GREETING

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

C **Amen.**

P Unto us a Child is born.

C **Unto us a Son is given.**

P And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

P Grace and peace be yours in full measure through your knowledge of the Father and of His Son come to earth, Jesus Christ, our Lord!

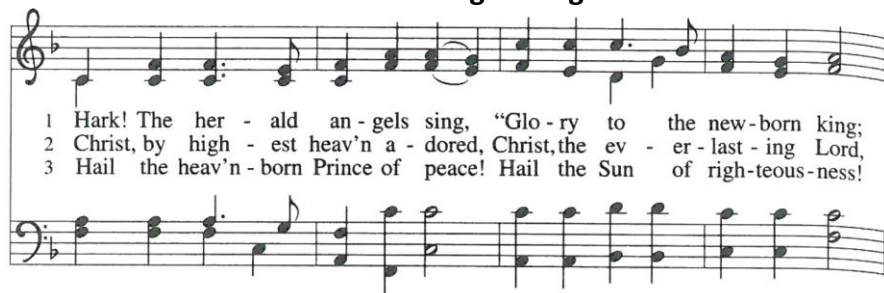
C **The peace of the Lord be with you, also.**

SHARING THE CHRISTMAS PEACE

Introduce yourself and share a greeting of peace with those around you..

HYMN

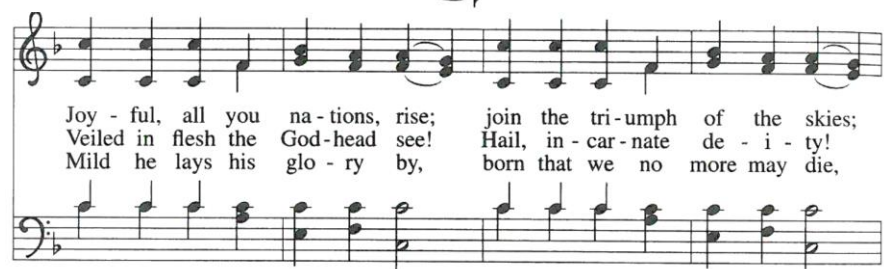
"Hark The Herald Angels Sing"



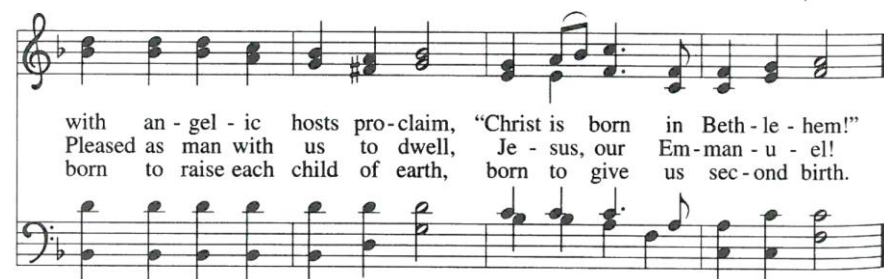
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



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.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn. 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cumminos. 1831–1915

MENDELSSOHN

7777 and refrain

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you. **[C]** And also with you.

[P] Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM “How Far is it to Bethlehem”

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

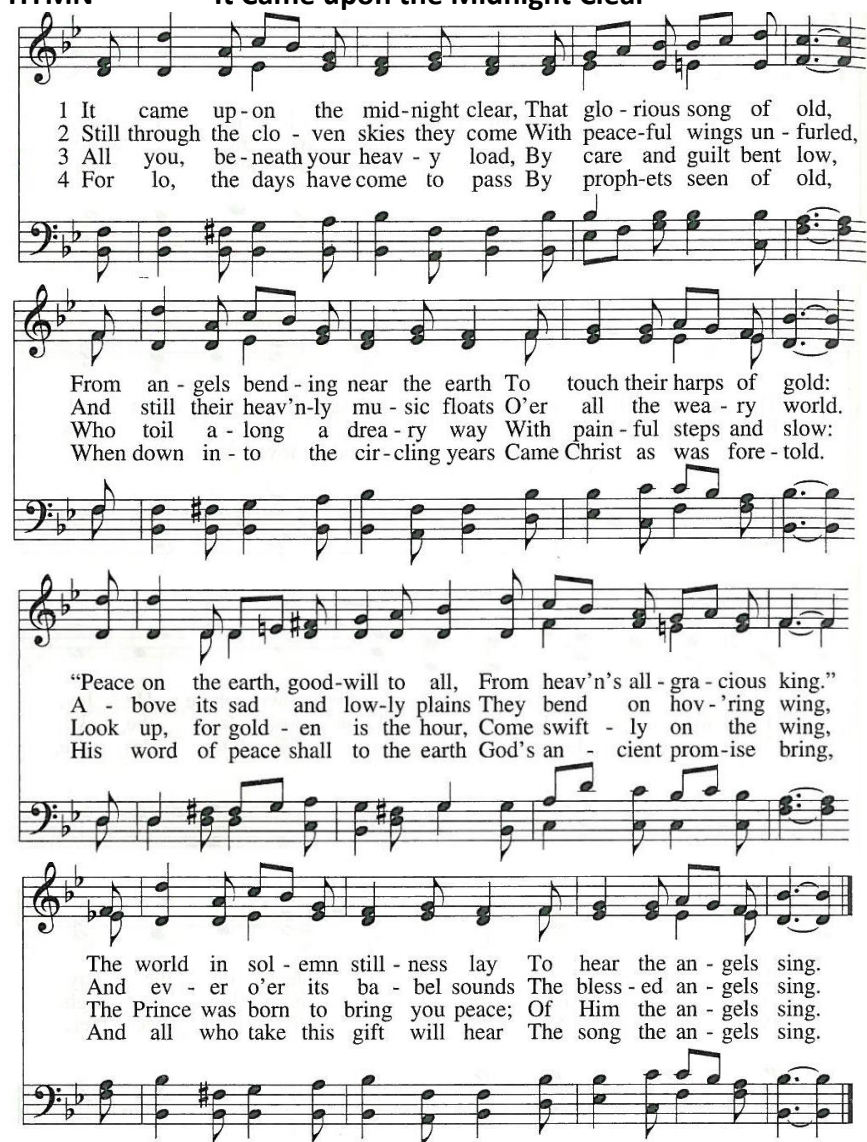
[R] This is the Word of the Lord. **[C]** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

HYMN "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"



The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily in the soprano and alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,

From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.

"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov'-ring wing,
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,

The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)

[P] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Men: **And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.**

Women: ***And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.***

[P] And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them,

All: ***"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."***

[P] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

ALL: ***"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"***

[P] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Men: **"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.**


[P] And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Women: ***But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.***


[P] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

[R] This is the Gospel of the Lord. **[C]** **Thanks be to God.**


HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"




1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958, alt.

ST. LOUIS

86 86 76 86

SERMON

"A Borrowed Bed"

HYMN OF THE DAY "What Child is This"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!



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 catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

[P] Father in heaven, on this Christmas Day, as Your sons and daughters we praise You for all Your goodness. We thank You for the word of the prophets spoken through people like Isaiah, who told us about how Your Son would be given to us.

[C] **The Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace.**

[P] Mighty God, we adore You for the awesome power You displayed when the Holy Spirit conceived in Mary, Your own Child and Offspring.

[C] **By Your Spirit bring new life to all who hear the message that You seek them out with Your love that they would never be forsaken.**

[P] Gracious God, as You honored young Mary calling her to be Your servant, use us as Your servants that Christ may be proclaimed to many hearts.

[C] **On this Christmas Day, we present ourselves to You as living sacrifices.**

[P] Dear Father, we stand amazed at the man, Joseph, who treasured and guarded Your Son and His mother.

[C] **As He willingly accepted a difficult task, give us the wisdom and strength to handle complex challenges in our lives.**

[P] Your angels, great God, sang Your praises for fulfilling Your plans and promises.

[C] **Receive our praises for You truly are God most high.**

[P] That You would choose shepherds to be the first visitors to see Your infant Son is an overwhelming truth to us, good Lord. It proves that You seek out even those who others consider to be unclean and unimportant.

[C] **With them, we worship You for always having arms that are open to those who struggle with uncleanness of any kind.**

[P] Wise and all-knowing King, You reign over all the earth.

[C] **As You guided the Wise Men from a distant place to the Savior's side, guide us by Your Word and Spirit that we would always adore and never leave Him.**

[P] Now as You sit on Your glorious throne in heaven, along with Simeon and Anna, we celebrate Your great love and the peace You offer.

[C] **Thank You for offering Your salvation to male and female, young and old alike.**

[P] Father, as You sought us, continue to send out the Good News of great joy to all people throughout the world that the lost would be found and sinners would be saved. These things we pray in the name of our Infant Redeemer, Jesus the Christ.

[C] **Amen.**

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

[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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

[P] Blessed are You, Lord God Almighty, for You have sent Your Son, Jesus, to bring the fullness of divine light to shine on us with all of its beauty and grace. We bless You for the joy of this day and for the blessed fellowship we share at Your Table of grace where we receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Grant that we walk in Your light at all times as we journey on this earth, to which our Savior was willing to come, until we rejoice in the light eternal of Your heavenly kingdom. This we ask in the saving name of Jesus. **[C]** **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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.”

LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text: *Little Children's Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, sts. 1–2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3, alt.
 Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905; setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959

AWAY IN A MANGER
 11 11 11 11

Text and tune: Public domain
 Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

Luke 2:7; Mark 10:14–16; Matt. 1:23; 28:20

HYMN

"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;

Refrain

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: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1873–1925, stanzas, alt.
 Tune: African American spiritual; setting: Hugh Porter, 1897–1960

GO TELL IT
 78 76 76 76

BLESSING

[P] The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✱ in peace. **[C] Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

[P] Let us pray.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, walking in the true light of Christ, we shall ever put

our hope in Jesus, Your Son and our King; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

HYMN "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?

He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
 Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,

Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.

Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.
 Tune: German, 14th cent.; setting: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923, alt.

IN DULCI JUBILO
 66 66 66 55

Text and tune: Public domain
 Setting: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

Luke 2:1-14; John 12:32; 1 Peter 1:8-9; Rev. 21:3-4

CONGREGATIONAL CANDLELIGHTING

The candles are distributed and lit. Follow the Pastor in raising and lowering the candles during the singing of Silent Night. Tip only your unlit candle.

HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night"

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night". It features three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.

CLOSING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.

HYMN “Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let men their songs em-
3 No more let sins and sor-rows grow Nor thorns in-fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na-tions

King; Let ev-'ry heart pre-pare Him
ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless-ings
prove The glo-ries of His righ-teous-

room And heav'n and na-ture sing, And heav'n and na-ture
plains Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat the sound-ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won-ders of His love, And won-ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing.
joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won-ders, won-ders of His love.

Our Confession about Communion

Our Confession

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

You may give a special Christmas offering online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.





"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"
444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778
www.martinlutherchapel.org