Nativity of Our Lord • Christmas Day
December 25, 2025

PRELUDE: In dulci jubilo J. S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

***C.* Amen.**

P. Let us come before the living God in confession.

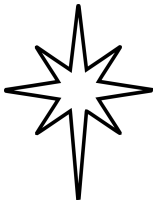
(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P. God, wonderful counselor,

***C.* we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.**
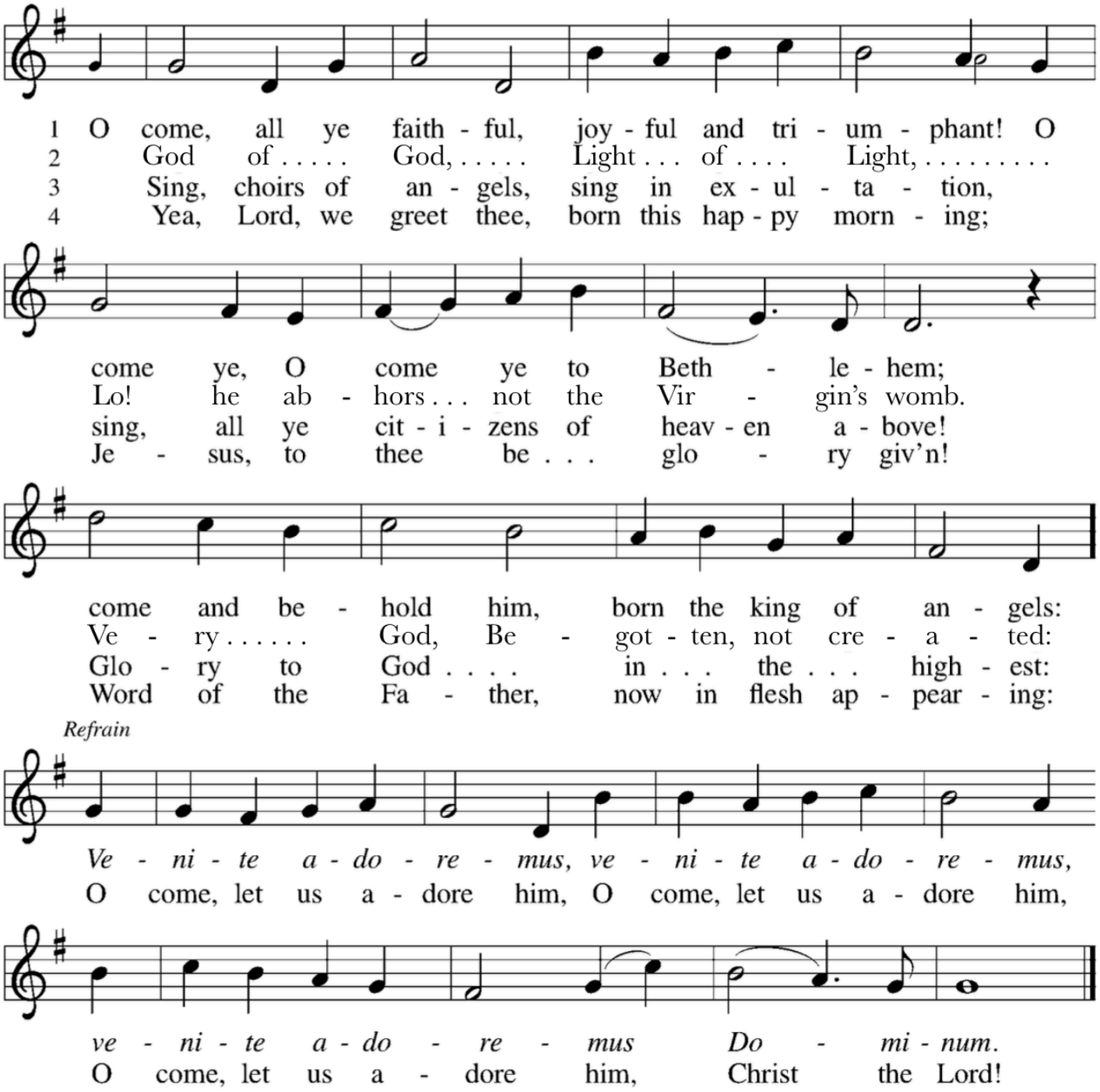
P. God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

***C.* Amen.**



(*) Please stand if you are able

*GATHERING HYMN



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. **Amen.**

(*) Please stand if you are able

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52: 7-10

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." 8 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. 9 Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 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.
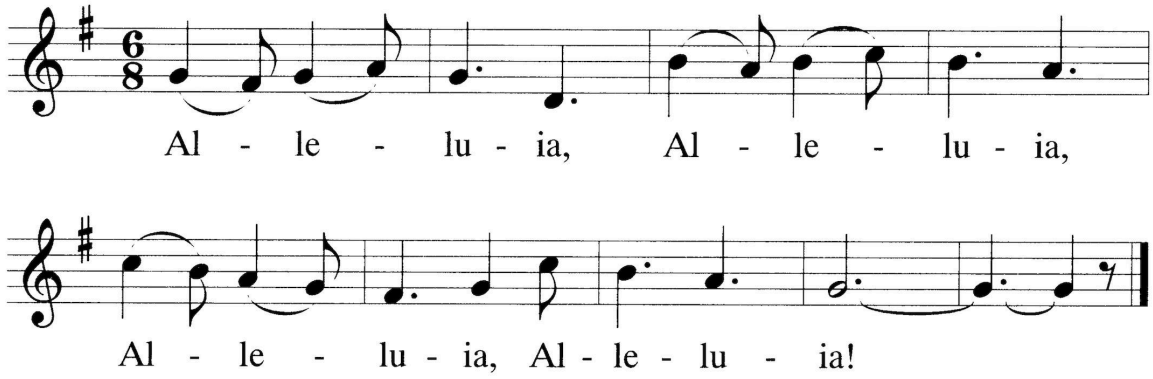
R. Word of God, word of life.
***C.* Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2 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. 3 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, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

R. The word of the Lord.
C. Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL:** John 1:1-14

P. The holy gospel according to John.
***C.* Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to

(*) Please stand if you are able

the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.14 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.
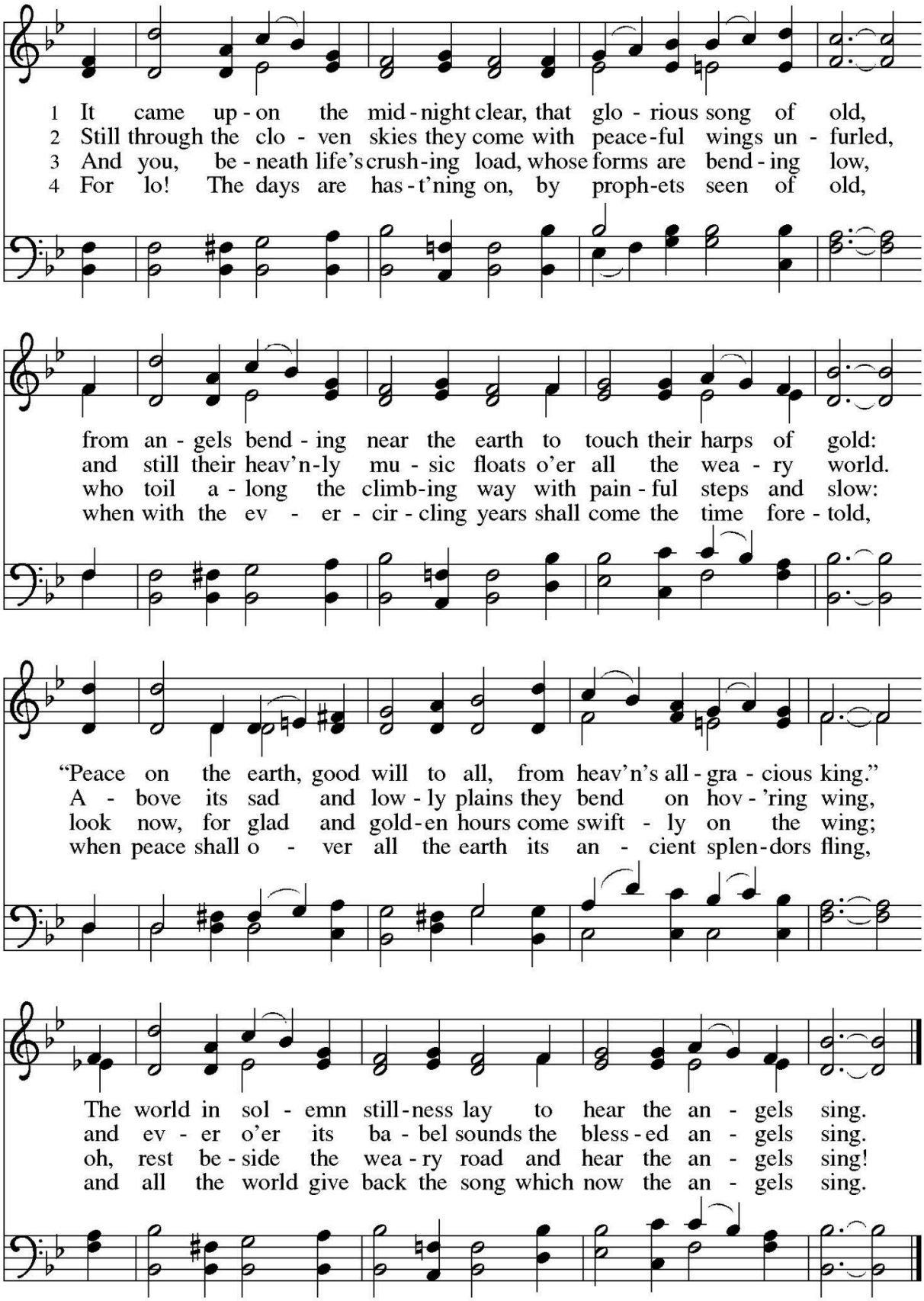
P. The gospel of the Lord.
C. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth*



(*) Please stand if you are able

*HYMN OF THE DAY



(*) Please stand if you are able

*NICENE CREED

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray that Jesus brings light, salvation, and peace to the church, the world, and all people.

A brief silence

O Word made flesh, who dwells among us, bless the Church with a glimpse of your glory. Let it worship with the angels' adoration, the bliss of Mother Mary, the quiet goodness of Joseph, and the reverence of the shepherds. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(*) Please stand if you are able

You are higher than every angel, and yet you are pleased to dwell in our midst. Bless this congregation with joyful hearts, fervent worship, eager witness, loving service, and kindly fellowship. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Born a Child, you are the King of all nations, and their Lord. Conform the rulers of this world to your glorious and gentle rule. Teach them to do your will; love justice and mercy; to walk humbly with you; and to be a blessing to the people entrusted to their care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the heaven-born Prince of Peace. But in this sinful world, violence and warfare trouble your people even on Christmas morning. Let your holy angels shield, strengthen, and direct the words and actions of all in the military; all first responders; and anyone whose work is difficult and dangerous. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Sun of Righteousness, arise with healing in your wings and bestow the glorious light of your salvation upon all who sit in the darkness of suffering and the shadow of death. Restore them to life and hope; encourage all who care for them; and let the great good news of your birth among us adorn their suffering with unconquerable joy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In you, dear Jesus, we see the eternal love of your Father's heart, and the eternal glory of his Kingdom. Thank you for drawing into his embrace all those who died trusting in your goodness. Wipe away the tears from those who grieve. Give us your blessed comfort, your precious forgiveness, and your ever-faithful guidance. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear and mercifully grant us, dear Lord, all that we ask that conforms to your good and perfect will for us, for your Name's sake. **Amen.**

*PEACE
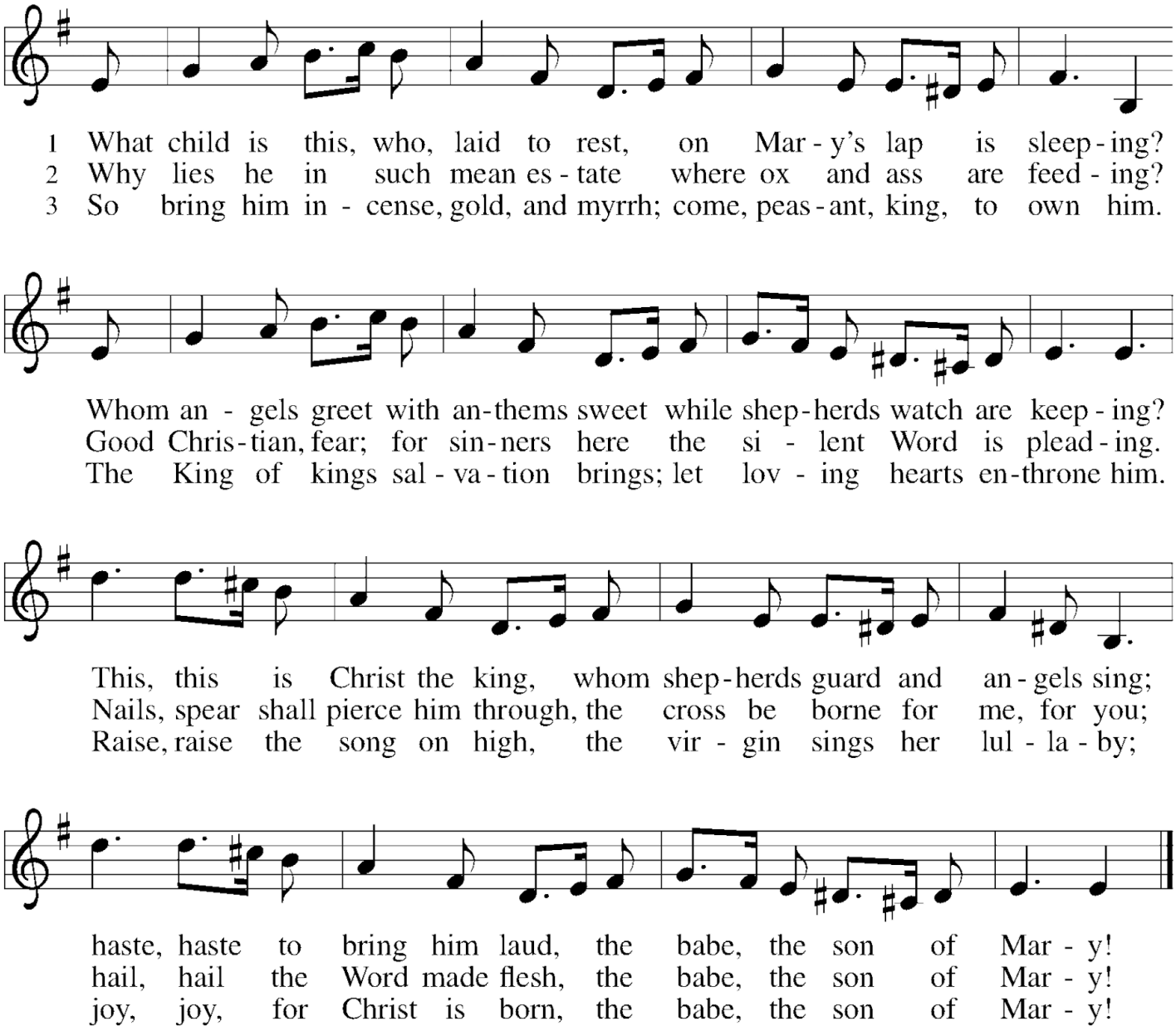
P. The peace of Christ be with you always.
***C.* And also with you.**

Please respect those who, for varied reasons, wish not to physically share the peace. Those who smile and wave are also sharing the peace.

(*) Please stand if you are able

THE MEAL

OFFERTORY



*OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

***C.* Amen.**

(*) Please stand if you are able

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.
C. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P. With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
C. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P. Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
C. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P. All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
C. **Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

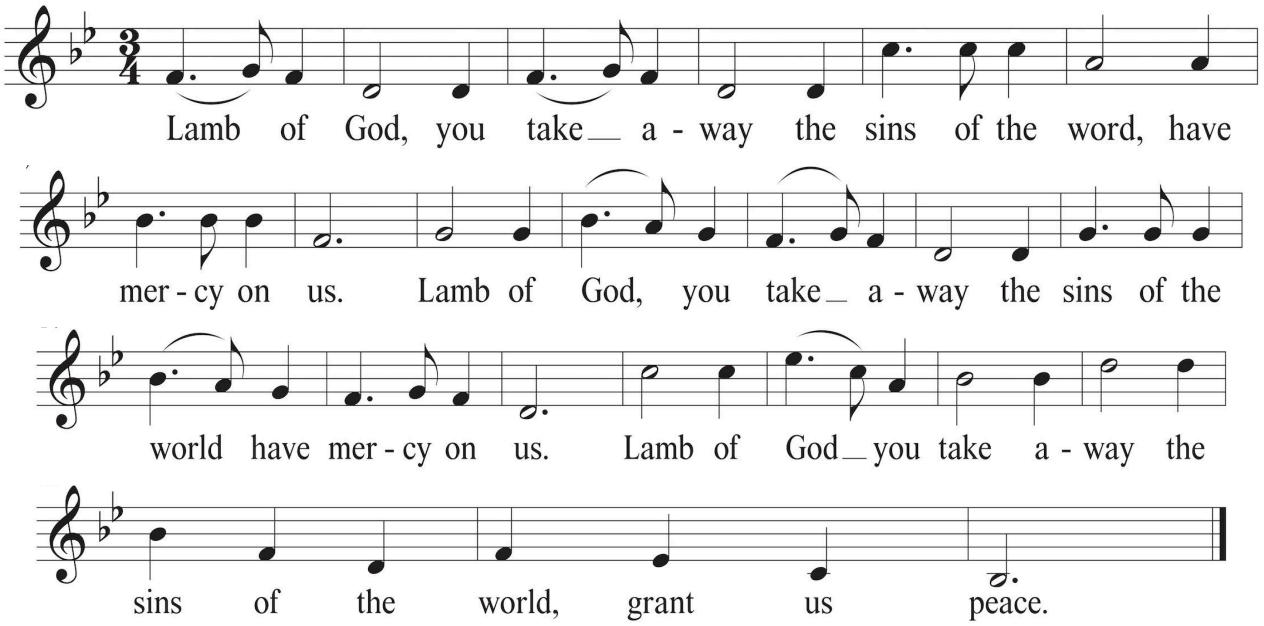
P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
C. **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against 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.

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*BREAKING OF BREAD & INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. The Word became flesh and lived among us; and we beheld His glory.

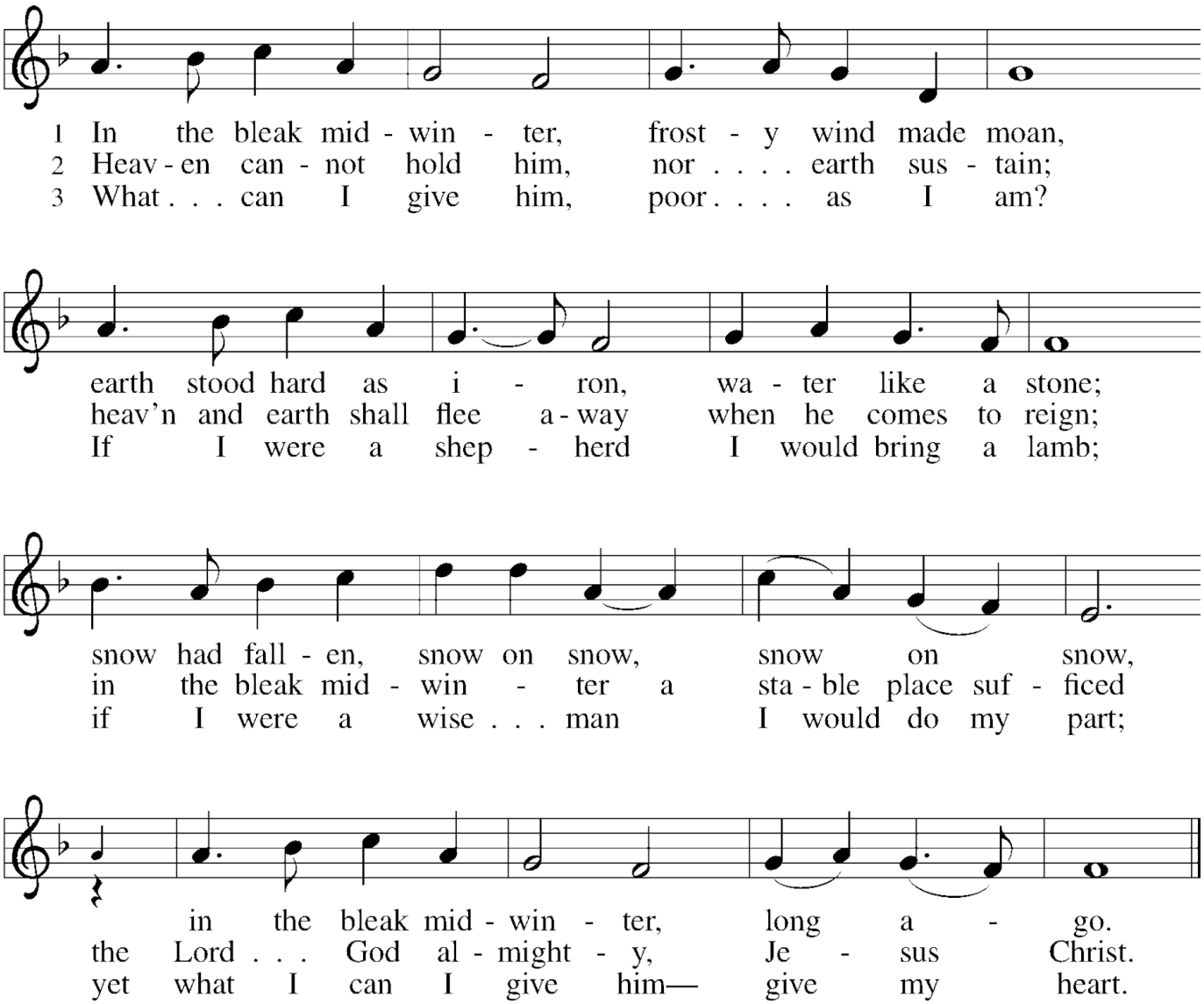
***C.* Make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.**



In the bread and wine, Christ is present. More than a sign or symbol, these gifts become his very body and blood. All who love Jesus, regardless of their denominational background or tradition, are invited to join us in this Sacrament of mystery and love. The ushers will direct you. Grape juice can be found at the center of each tray, and a gluten-free host option is available. If you or your child are not communing today, please indicate that to the pastor and a blessing shall be given

(*) Please stand if you are able

*MUSIC AT COMMUNION



*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

***C.* Amen.**

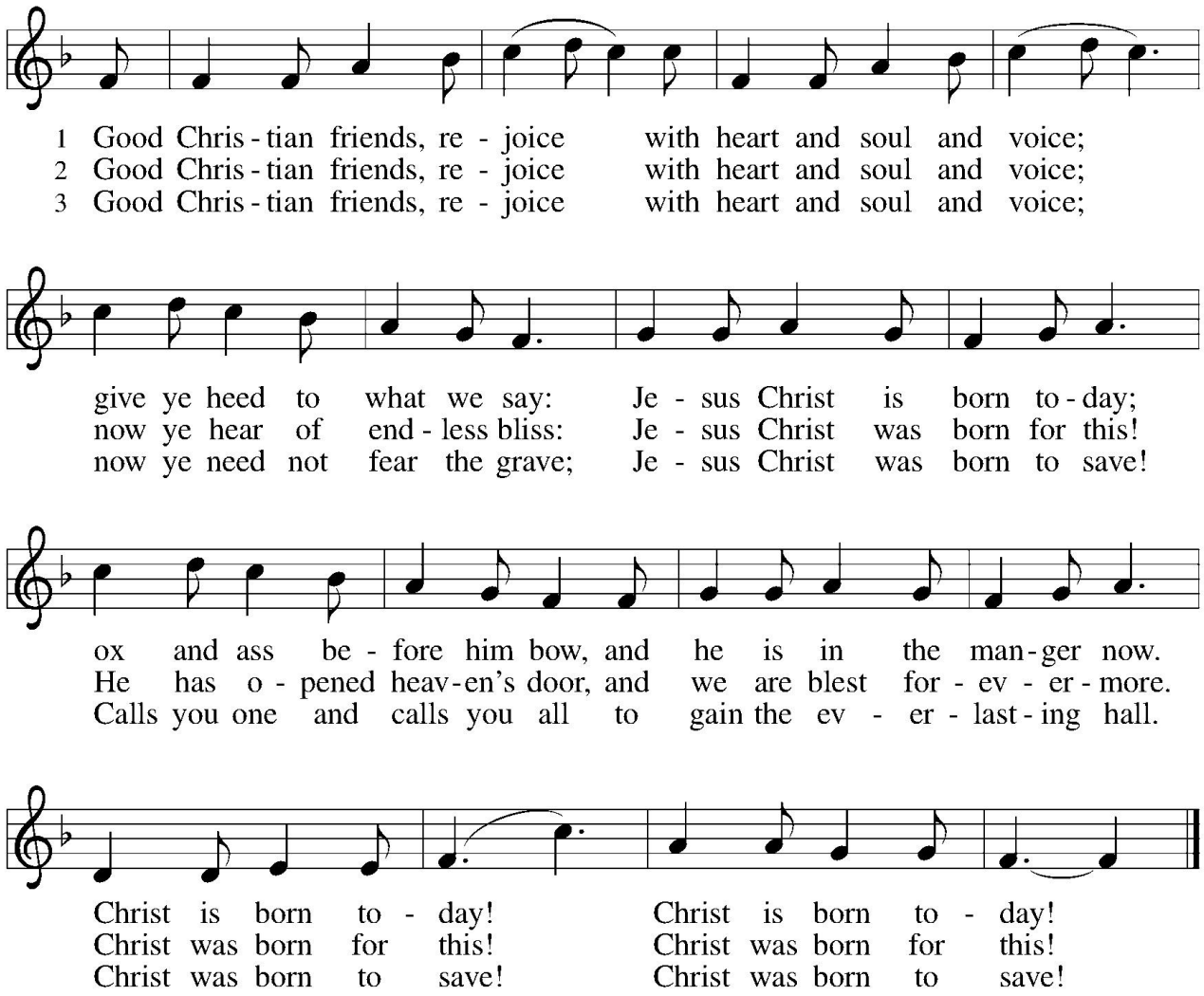
*BLESSING

P. The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

***C.* Amen.**

(*) Please stand if you are able

*SENDING HYMN



DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

(*) Please stand if you are able

Joy to the World!

Join us for a special Christmas Day concert at 11:00am

Michael Bodnyk, our Minister of Music, will lead us in a special Christmas Day concert featuring seasonal favorites and beloved Christmas carols. Festive treats to follow. All are welcome!



Christmas offering envelopes are included in your bulletin today; they may be placed in the offering baskets located at the entrances to our Sanctuary. Online giving is also available at saklc.com/give, or by using the QR code below to make a contribution. The ministries and programs of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church are funded by the offerings of our members and friends. We want to offer our sincere thanks for your generosity.

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SAKLC would like to express our deep appreciation to Home Depot for the donation of all our Christmas trees! Our sanctuary looks beautiful!

(*) Please stand if you are able

Assisting in Worship This Morning

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth, Pastor

Michael J. Bodnyk, Minister of Music

Sincere gratitude to all our volunteers who have given their time to assist us this morning.

One License: A-702157
Augsburg Fortress: SAS023797
CCLI: 100150

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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Dave Drechsler, Maintenance Technician	dave@saklc.com

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Doug Engebretson, Steve Gunderson (president), Judy Matthies, Lynda Menuez, Lois Robinson, Tom Siegfried, Ernie Smith, Ryan Smith (secretary), Ann Walborn (vice president) Chris Williams, Michael Bodnyk, & Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth

PASTORS EMERITI

Rev. Robert J. L. Zimmer & Rev. Eric Wogen

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