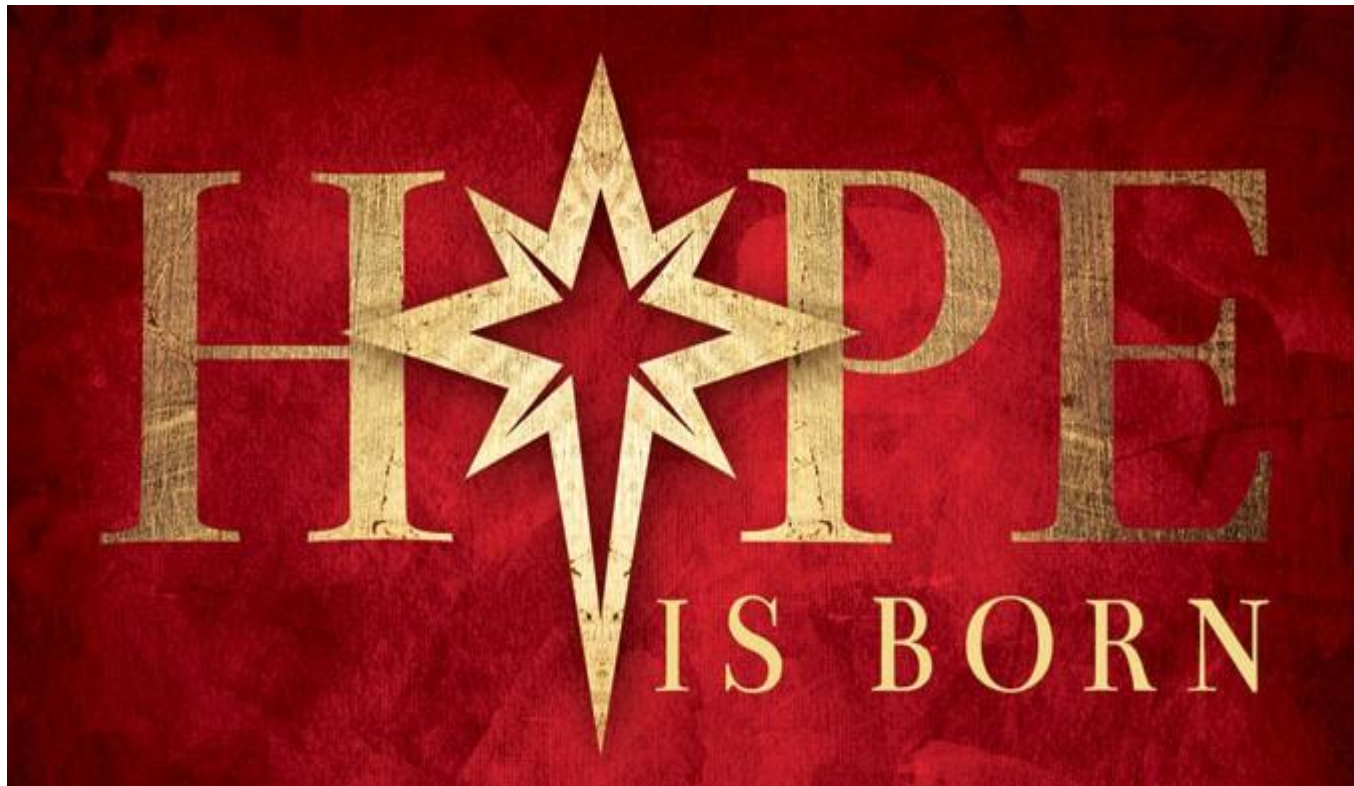




WORSHIP WITH
HOLY COMMUNION

Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

7:00 PM

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

824 N. Buchanan Blvd ♦ Durham, NC 27701 ♦ 919.682.6030 ♦ www.gracedurham.org

AS WE GATHER:

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ Child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised King will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRELUDE

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

PLEASE STAND

OPENING HYMN: *"Once in Royal David's City" (LSB 376) -Verses 1-2, 4-5*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.; Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76; Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION:

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;

C and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

P And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

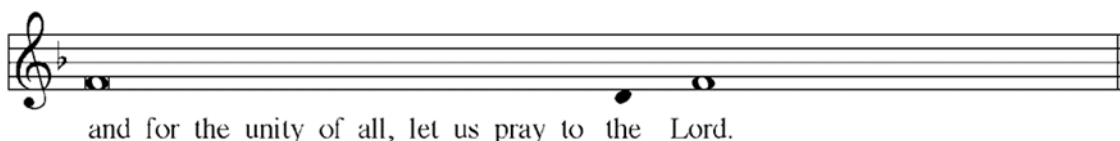
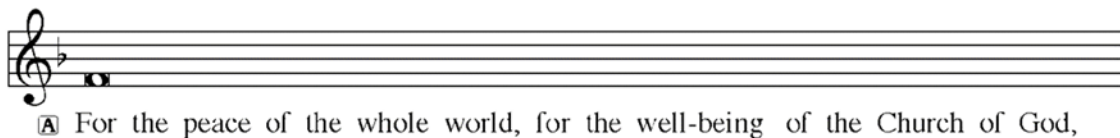
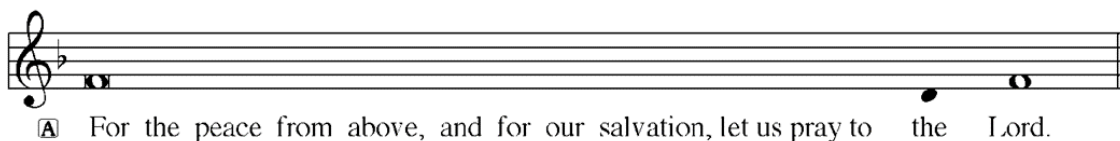
P Sing to the Lord a new song,

C for He has done marvelous things!

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us examine our lives, confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Let us take refuge in the Father's infinite mercy, seeking His grace through Jesus Christ who took on flesh for our sake, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

KYRIE:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (LSB 368)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -

Refrain
 Glo - - - - ri - a

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; Text and tune: French
 Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Almighty God, You made this Holy Night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

-God Speaks to Us from His Word-

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-14

Reader: The Old Testament Lesson is from the 7th chapter of Isaiah.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."

¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it

too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 110: **"You Are a Priest For Ever" - Gather 103** (congregation sings Refrain)

Refrain



Verses

1. The Lord's revelation to my Master: "Sit on my right; your foes I will put beneath your feet."
2. The Lord will wield from Zion your scepter of power; rule in the midst of all your foes.
3. A prince from the day of your birth on the holy mountains; from the womb before the dawn I begot you.
4. The Lord has sworn an oath and will not change.
"You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old."

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EPISTLE LESSON: 1 John 4:7-16

Reader: The Epistle Lesson is from the 4th chapter of First John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.

¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



G Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

SERMON: **The Rev. Dr. David H. Brooks**

PLEASE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Joy to the World" (LSB 387)*

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.; Text and tune: Public domain

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;
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.

[†] meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of the Christian doctrine

-God Receives Our Prayers-

PRAYERS: *(after each petition)*

P Lord in Your mercy,
C Hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PLEASE BE SEATED

CHOIR OFFERTORY: *"I Wonder as I Wander"*

PLEASE STAND

OFFERTORY: ***"In the Bleak Midwinter"*** - V.1,2,4 - (Ushers bring offering forward)

1 In the bleak mid-win-ter, frost-y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-win-ter, a sta-ble-place suf-ficed
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid-win-ter, long a-go.
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

-God Gives Us A Foretaste of the Feast to Come-

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so 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.

P It is our duty and delight...
We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Holy God, mighty Lord, ...
...we proclaim the Lord's death, until He comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, gracious Father, ...
... to share with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, Your Holy Spirit, ...
... and receive our inheritance with all Your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

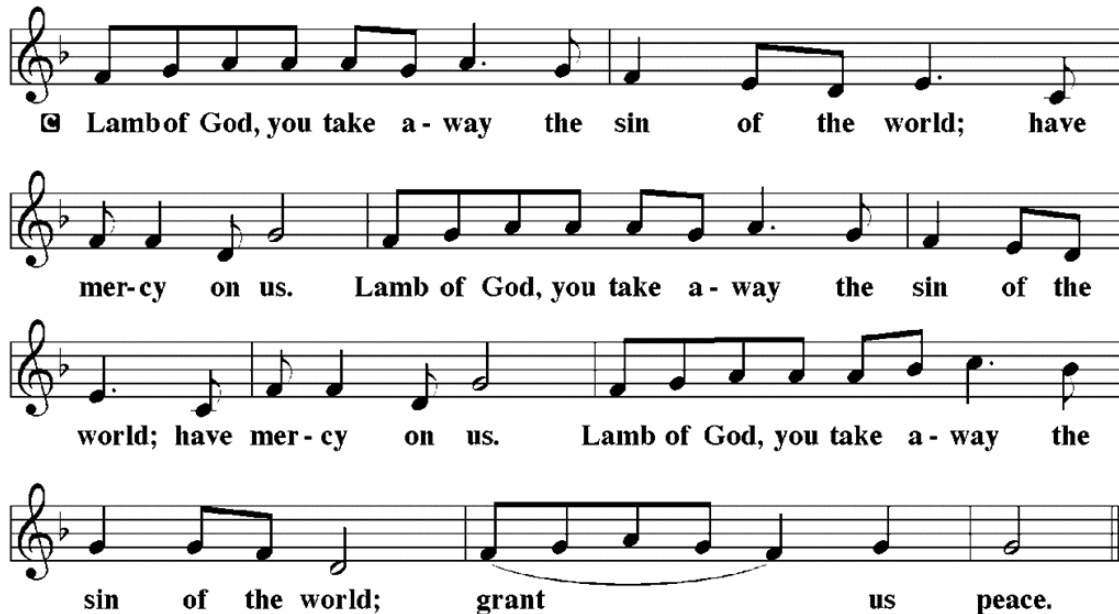
P Join our prayers with those of Your servants ...
... until He comes as victorious Lord of all.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

AGNUS DEI:



□ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

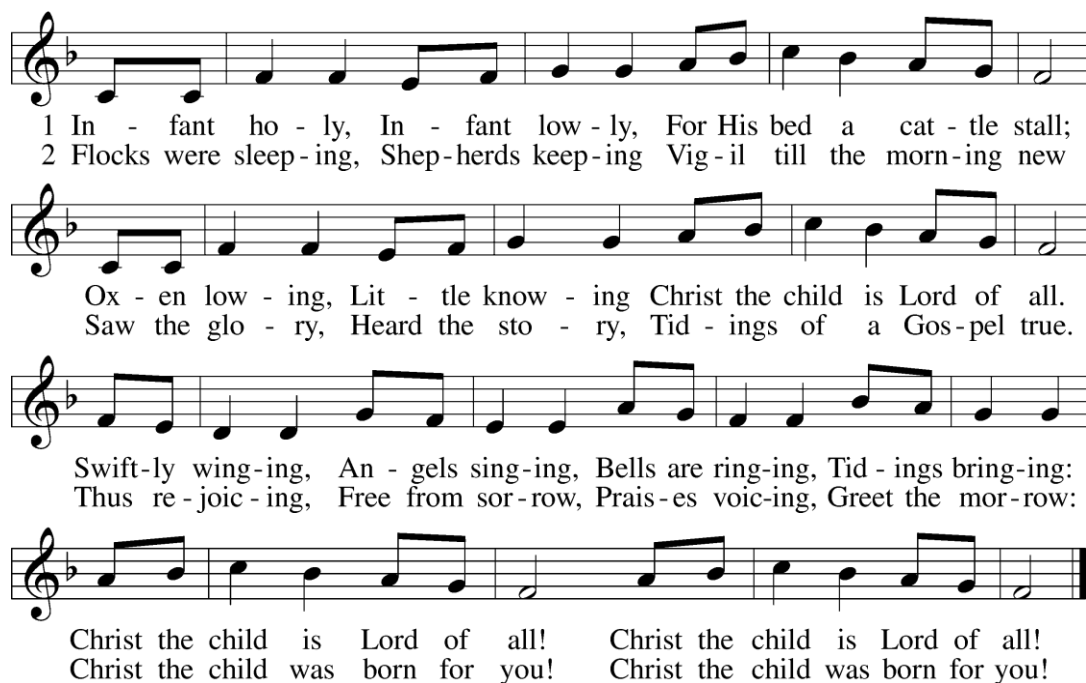
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RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

As Lutheran Christians, we believe, teach, and confess that Jesus Christ gives us His own true Body and Blood via the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10:16). We trust His promise that this Supper is for the forgiveness of our sins, the increase of our faith, and the strengthening of our life as the Church. Worshippers who share our confession, repent of their sins, and seek the Lord's blessing are welcome to receive. *First time guests are kindly asked to speak to our pastor or an usher before receiving communion.* Those not communing are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

If you need assistance, please let an usher know.

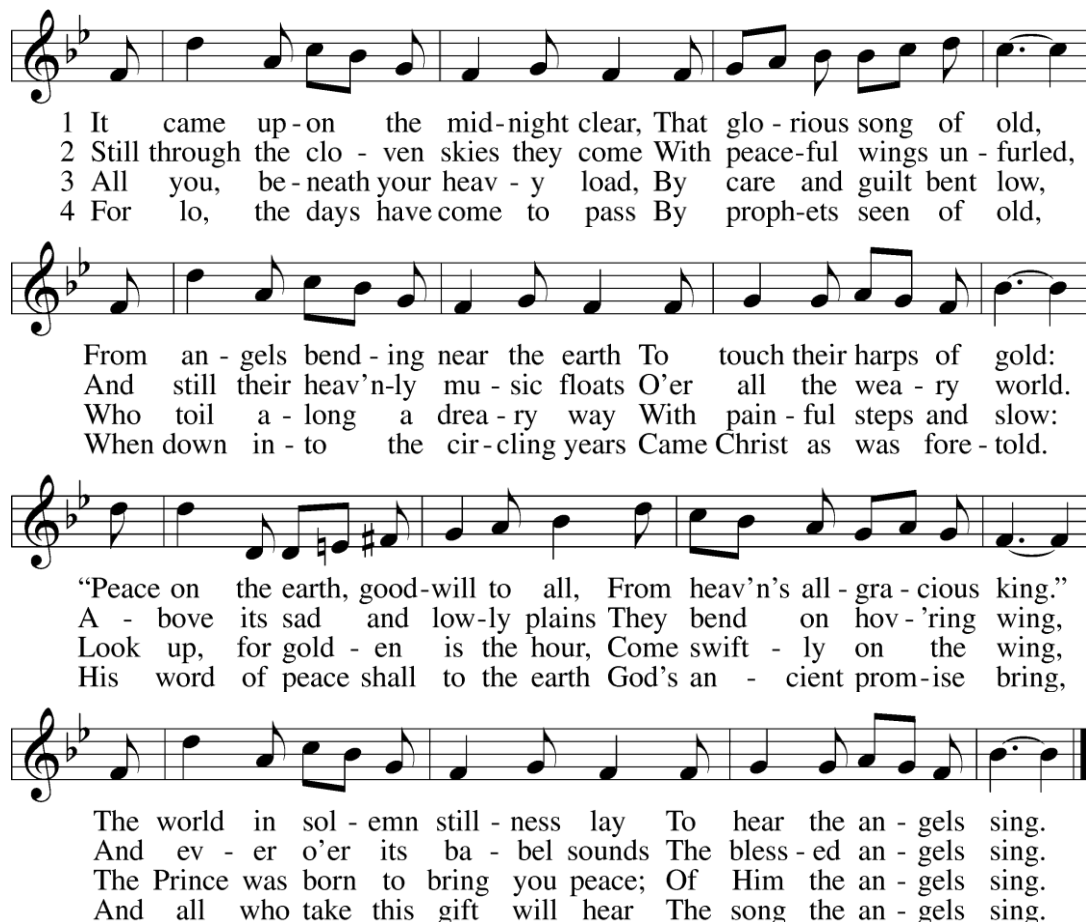
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (LSB 393)*



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new
Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.
Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.; Text and tune: Polish

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (LSB 366)



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.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.; Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900; Text and tune: Public domain

"Away in a Manger" (LSB 364)

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 night.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.; Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905
Text and tune: Public domain

PLEASE STAND

BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION:

☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

-God Blesses Us and Sends Us Out-

BENEDICTION

CANDLE LIGHTING AND CLOSING –

Please light your candle at this time.

- Pastor:** Arise, shine, for Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1).
- Reader:** Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12).
- Reader:** You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.
(Matthew 5:14,16)
- Reader:** For God, Who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6).
- Reader:** “No longer will the sun be your light by day or the moon be your light by night; I, the Lord will be your eternal light; the light of My glory will shine on you.” (Isaiah 60:19)
- Pastor:** For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for the fruit of light consists of all goodness, righteousness and truth. (Ephesians 5:8-9).



Grace Generous Giving QR Code

Quick response codes (QR codes) - provide a simple and secure method of giving. Hover over the QR code with your smartphone camera and tap the notification that pops up. You will be taken to the giving page on our website (Vanco) to make your donation.

CLOSING HYMN: *"Silent Night" (LSB 363)*

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85; Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863
Text and tune: Public domain

SENDING:

- P:** Go forth! Walk in the light of Christ to the glory of God and for the care of the neighbor.
- C:** **We go in the peace of God. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TONIGHT:

Organist: Erin Lynn Hodge

Ushers:

Dave Dickmader &
Leonard Hango

Reader:

Janet Dickmader

Communion Assistant:

Dean Kolba

Acolyte:

Leonard Hango

Greeter: Gary Stuhlmiller

Altar Guild: Carol Walton, Setup; Donna Gesell, Clean up

A/V Operator: Barb Tippin