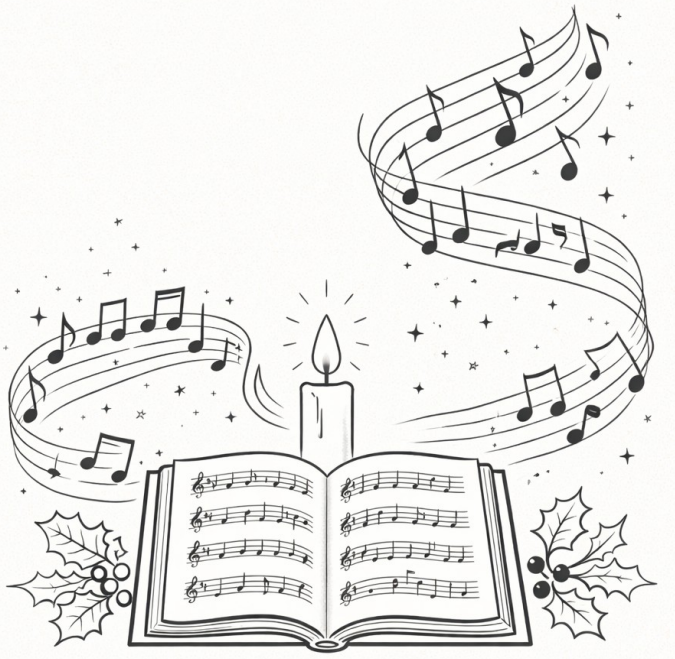Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 28, 2025

A Service of Lessons and Carols



We go with Good News, teaching, serving, and sharing Christ with our neighbors.

Sundays at Grace

8:30am Lutheranism 101 Starts January 11

9:30am Fellowship Time

10:10am Worship

11:30am Taste of Grace on January 11

Visit gracedurham.org/news for the most up to date calendar

Connect With Us

www.gracedurham.org

Copies of the week's announcements are located in the Narthex.

If you'd like to receive our eNews via email, please contact office@gracedurham.org

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10

Worshiping with us for the first time?

If you are a first time visitor, welcome! We're glad you're here!
We encourage you to review our Statement of Communion on page 16.
If you have any questions, please take a moment to speak with Pastor Brooks or one of our ushers.
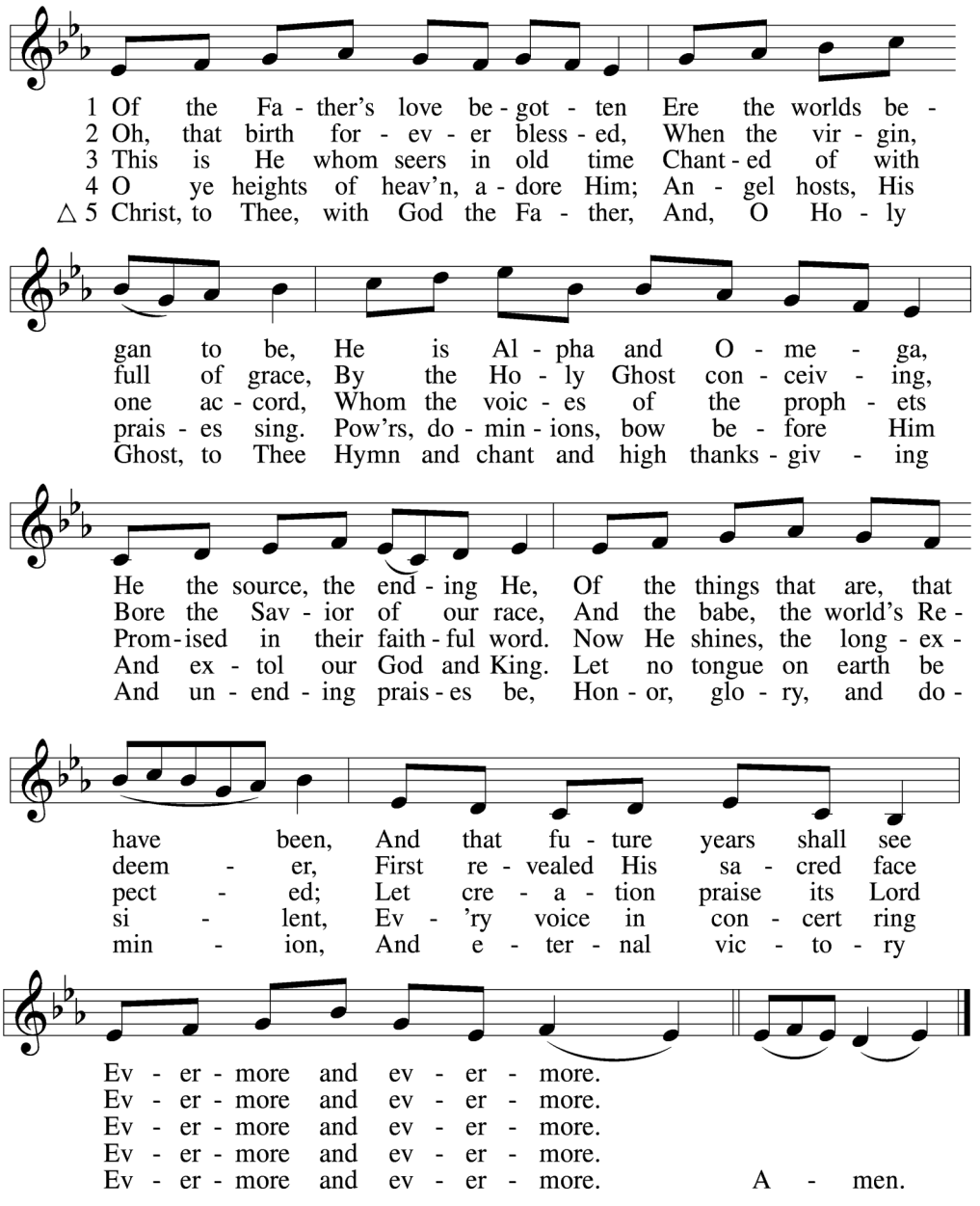
Please fill out a guest card in the pew racks and tell us about yourself, or scan the QR code. If you have any questions, feel free to visit our Welcome Center in the Narthex.

We welcome children in worship services.
Age-appropriate activity bags are located in the Narthex.

The congregation is asked to join in with the bold-faced text. ***Sing the bold italics.***

Prelude

Gathering Song — *Of The Father's Love* (LSB 384)



Text and tune: Public domain

THE DIALOGUE

L The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light.
C **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome It.**

L Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them Light has shined.
C **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

L To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.
C **In the Word was Life, and the Life was the Light of all people.**

OPENING PRAYER

L Almighty God, You have filled us with the new Light of the Word Who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON *God promises a King* Isaiah 9:2-7

The First Lesson is from the 9th Chapter of Isaiah.

[2]The people walking in darkness have
seen a great Light; on those living in
the land of deep darkness a Light has
dawned.
[3]You have enlarged the nation and
increased their joy; they rejoice
before You as people rejoice at the
harvest, as warriors rejoice when
dividing the plunder.
[4]For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
You have shattered the yoke
that burdens them, the bar across their
shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.
[5]Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel
for the fire.
[6]For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is
given, and the government will be on His
shoulders. And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
[7]Of the greatness of his government
and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over
his kingdom, establishing and upholding

it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

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

CAROL — *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (LSB 357)

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth, its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.
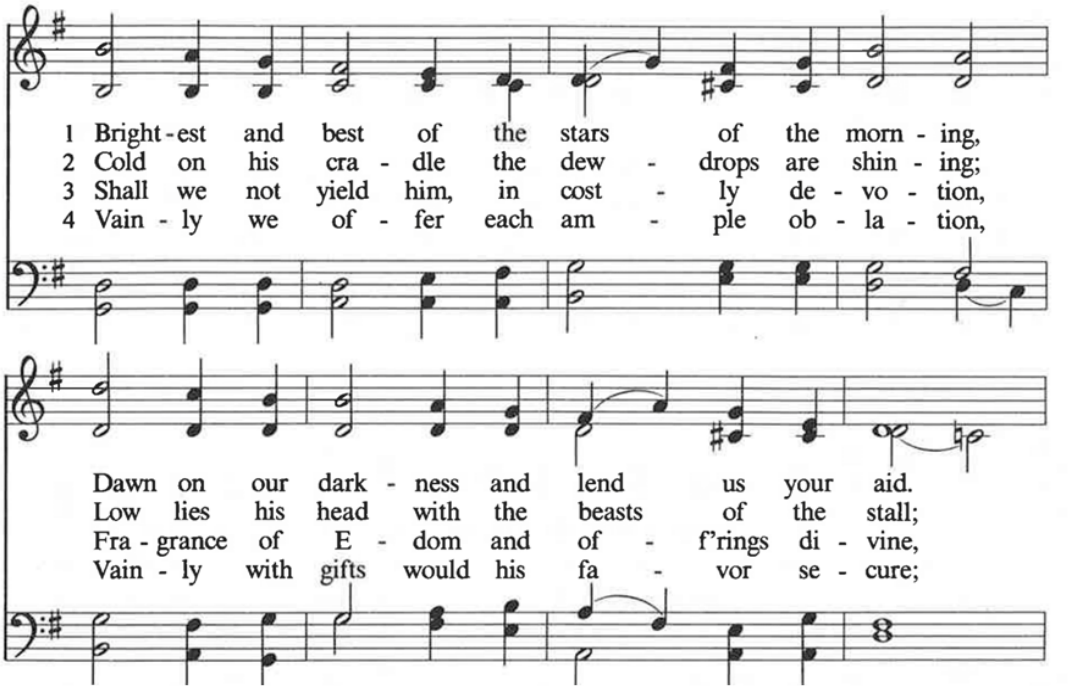
THE SECOND LESSON *The King will come from Bethlehem* Micah 5 :2-5a
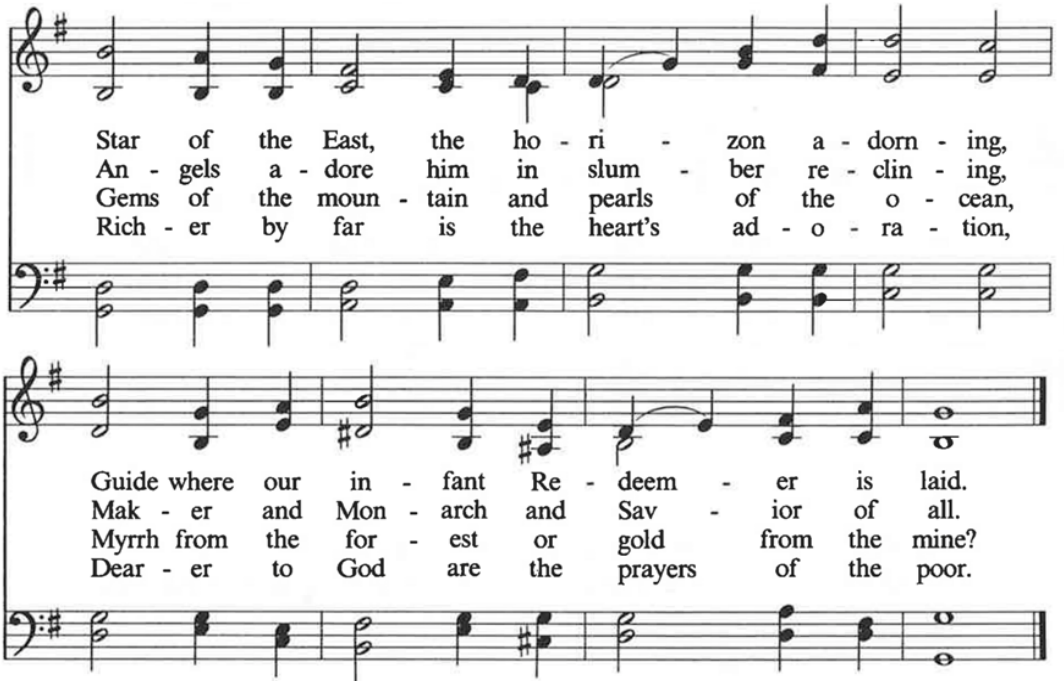
The Second Lesson is from the 5th Chapter of Micah.

[2]"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me One Who will be ruler over Israel, Whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
[3]Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a Son, and the rest of His brothers return to join the Israelites.
[4]He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the Name of the Lord His God. And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.
[5]And He will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

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

CAROL — *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning* (LBW 84)





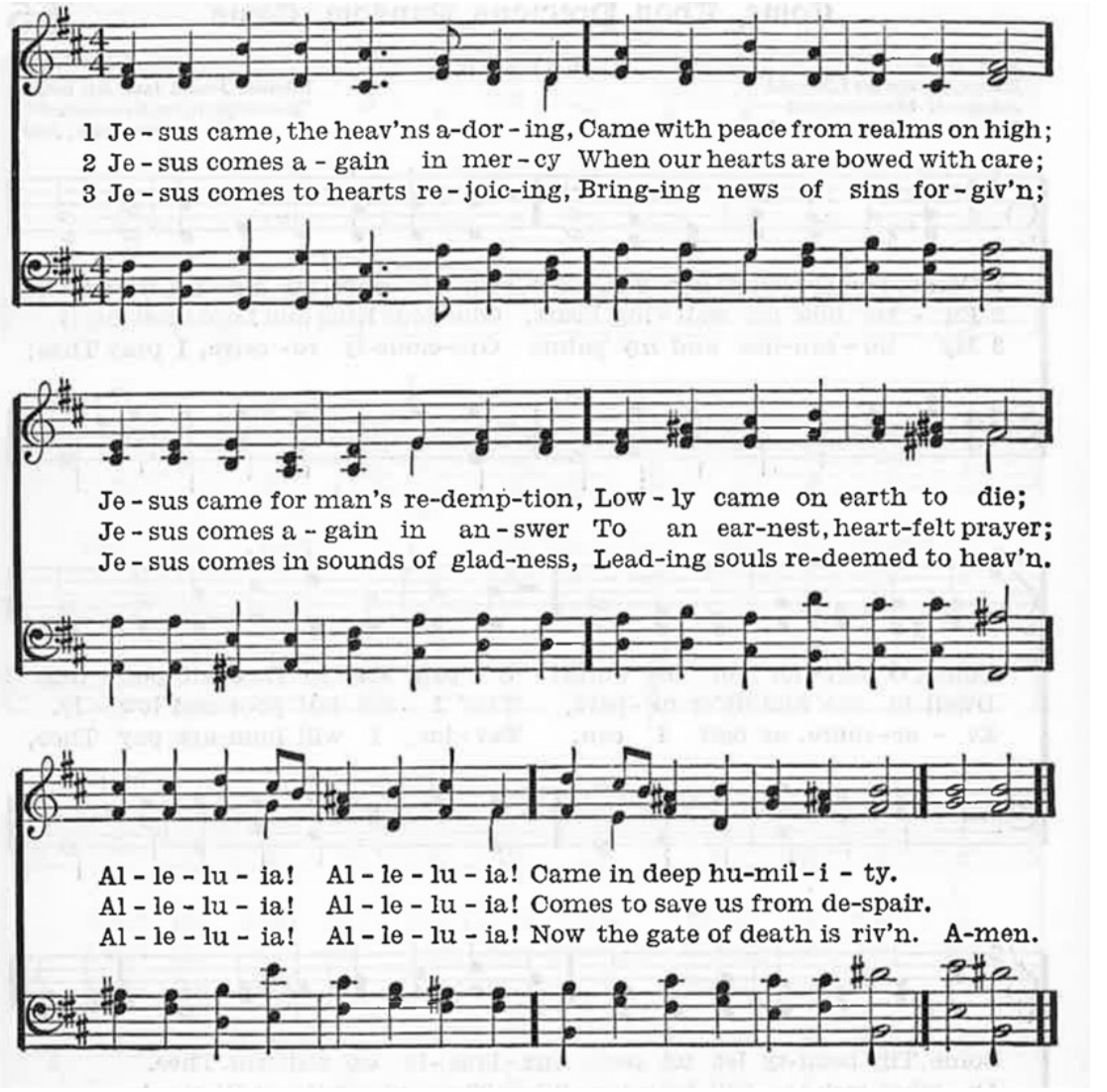
THE THIRD LESSON *The annunciation to Mary* Luke 1:26-35, 38

The Third Lesson is from the 1st Chapter of Luke.

26In the sixth month of Elizabeth's
pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel
to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,
27to a virgin pledged to be married to a
man named Joseph, a descendant of
David. The virgin's name was Mary.
28The angel went to her and said,
"Greetings, you who are highly favored!
The Lord is with you."
29Mary was greatly troubled at his words
and wondered what kind of greeting
this might be. **30**But the angel said to
her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have
found favor with God.
31You will conceive and give birth
to a Son, and you are to call Him Jesus.
32He will be great and will be called the
Son of the Most High. The Lord God will
give Him the throne of His father David,
33and He will reign over Jacob's
descendants forever; His kingdom will
never end." **34**"How will this be," Mary
asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"
35The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit
will come on you, and the power of the
Most High will overshadow you. So the
holy One to be born will be called the Son
of God. **38**"I am the Lord's servant,"
Mary answered. "May your word to me
be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

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

CAROL — *Jesus Came, The Heavens Adoring* (TLH 56)



THE FOURTH LESSON *The birth of Jesus.* Luke 2:1-7

The Fourth Lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Luke.

[1]In those days Caesar Augustus issued a
decree that a census should be taken of
the entire Roman world. [2](This was the
first census that took place while Quirinius
was governor of Syria.)
[3]And everyone went to their own town to
register. [4]So Joseph also went up from
the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,
to Bethlehem the town of David,
because he belonged to the house and
line of David. [5]He went there to register
with Mary, who was pledged to be
married to him and was expecting a child.
[6]While they were there, the time came
for the baby to be born,
[7]and she gave birth to her firstborn,
a son. She wrapped him in cloths and
placed him in a manger, because there
was no guest room available for them.

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

CAROL — *O Come All Ye Faithful* (LBW 45)

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy, Light of light external, born of a virgin, a mortal He comes; Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God….in the highest. (Refrain)

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

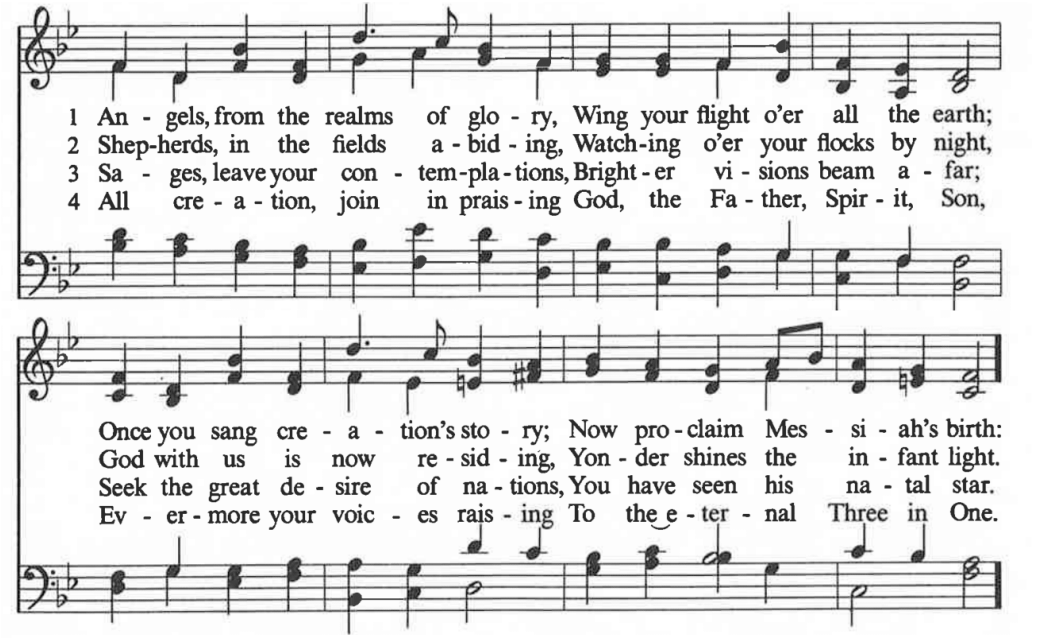
THE FIFTH LESSON *Shepherds go to see the Savior.* Luke 2:8-16

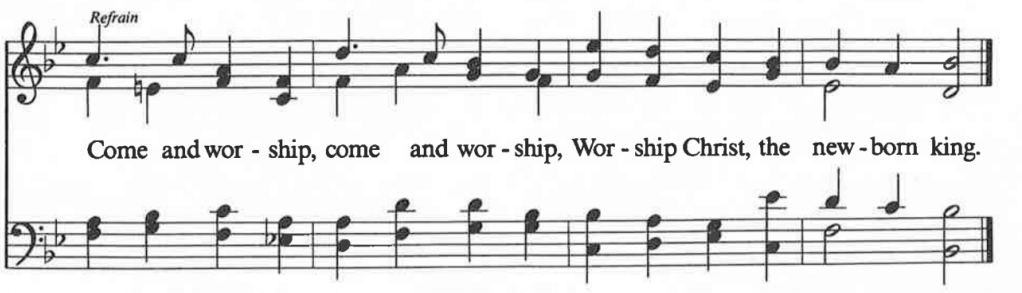
The Fifth Lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Luke.

[8]And there were shepherds living out in
the fields nearby, keeping watch over
their flocks at night.
[9]An angel of the Lord appeared to them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around
them, and they were terrified.
[10]But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news
that will cause great joy for all the people.
[11]Today in the town of David a Savior has
been born to you; He is the Messiah,
the Lord. [12]This will be a sign to you:
You will find a Baby wrapped in cloths
and lying in a manger."
[13]Suddenly a great company of the
heavenly host appeared with the angel,
praising God and saying, [14]"Glory to God
in the highest heaven, and on earth peace
to those on whom His favor rests."
[15]When the angels had left them and gone
into heaven, the shepherds said to one
another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see
this thing that has happened, which the
Lord has told us about."
[16]So they hurried off and found Mary and
Joseph, and the Baby, Who was lying in
the manger.

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

CAROL — *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (LBW 50)





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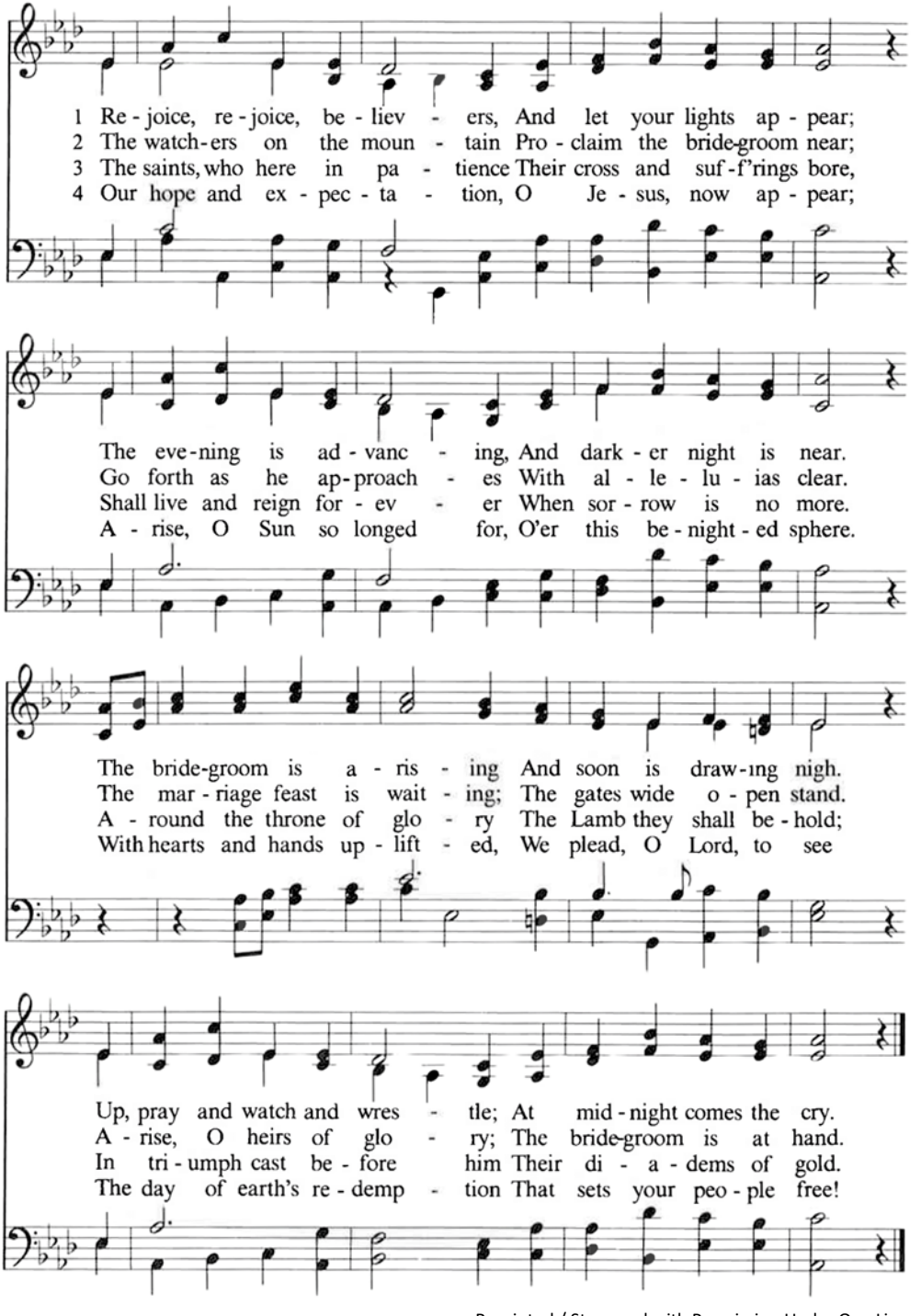
THE SIXTH LESSON *Jesus receives His name.* Luke 2:21-36

The Sixth Lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Luke.

[21]On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the Child, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived.
[22]When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord [23](as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), [24]and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."
[25]Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.
[26]It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he h ad seen the Lord's Messiah. [27]Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the Child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, [28]Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying:
[29]"Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You may now dismiss Your servant in peace. [30]For my eyes have seen Your Salvation, [31]which You have prepared in the sight of all nations: [32]a Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."
[33]The Child's father and mother marveled at what was said about Him.
[34]Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This Child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, [35]so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."
[36]There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage.

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

CAROL — *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* (LBW 25)



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THE SEVENTH LESSON *The Magi follow the star.* Matthew 2:1-11

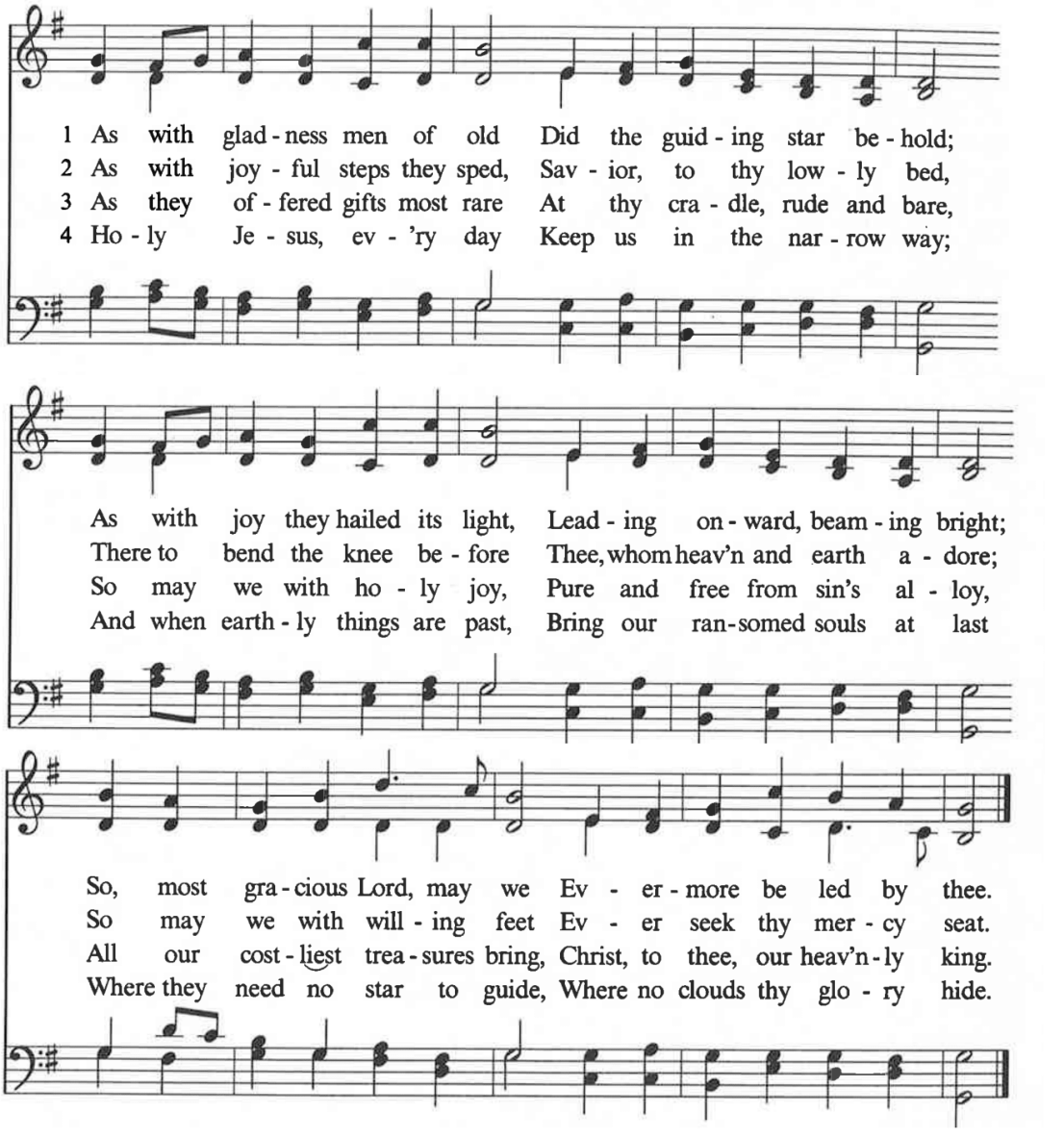
The Seventh Lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Matthew.

[1]After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in
Judea, during the time of King Herod,
Magi from the east came to Jerusalem
[2]and asked, "Where is the One Who has
been born King of the Jews?
We saw His star when it rose and have
come to worship Him."
[3]When King Herod heard this he was
disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.
[4]When he had called together all the
people's chief priests and teachers of the
law, he asked them where the Messiah
was to be born. [5]"In Bethlehem in Judea,"
they replied, "for this is what the prophet
has written: [6]"'But you, Bethlehem,
in the land of Judah, are by no means
least among the rulers of Judah; for out
of you will come a Ruler Who will shep-
herd my people Israel.'"
[7]Then Herod called the Magi secretly and
found out from them the exact time the
star had appeared.
[8]He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
"Go and search carefully for the Child.
As soon as you find Him, report to me,
so that I too may go and worship Him."
[9]After they had heard the king, they went
on their way, and the star they had seen
when it rose went ahead of them until it
stopped over the place where the Child
was. [10]When they saw the star,
they were overjoyed.
[11]On coming to the house, they saw the
Child with His mother Mary, and they
bowed down and worshiped Him.
Then they opened their treasures and
presented him with gifts of gold, frankin-
cense and myrrh.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL — *As With Gladness Men of Old* (LBW 82)



5 In the heav'nly country bright, Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun, which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

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THE EIGHTH LESSON *Slaughter of the holy innocents.* Matthew 2:13-18

The Eighth Lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Matthew.

13When they had gone, an angel of the
Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.
"Get up," he said, "take the child and his
mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there
until I tell you, for Herod is going to search
for the child to kill him."
14So he got up, took the child and his
mother during the night and left for Egypt,
15where he stayed until the death of
Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord
had said through the prophet: "Out of
Egypt I called my son."
16When Herod realized that he had been
outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and
he gave orders to kill all the boys in
Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two
years old and under, in accordance with
the time he had learned from the Magi.
17Then what was said through the prophet
Jeremiah was fulfilled: **18**"A voice is heard
in Ramah, weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children and
refusing to be comforted, because they
are no more."

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

CAROL — *Oh, Sleep Now, Holy Baby* (WOV 639)

Oh, sleep now, Holy Baby, With Your head against my breast;
Meanwhile the pangs of my sorrow Are soothed and put to rest.

Refrain: Alaru, alamé, alaru, alamé, Alaru, alamé, alaru, alaru, alamé.

You need not fear King Herod, He will bring no harm to You;
So rest in the arms of Your mother Who sings You alaru. (Refrain)

THE NINTH LESSON *The mystery of the incarnation.* John 1:1-14

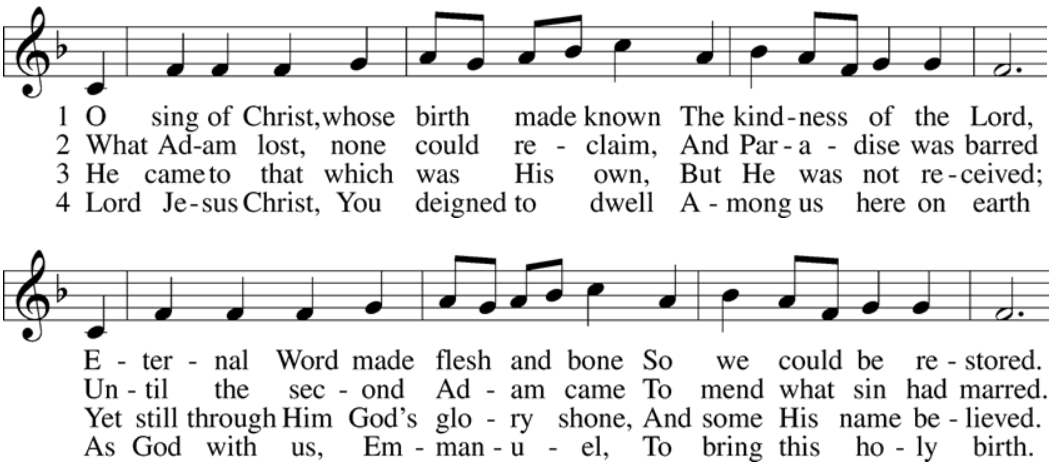
The Ninth Lesson is from the 1st Chapter of John
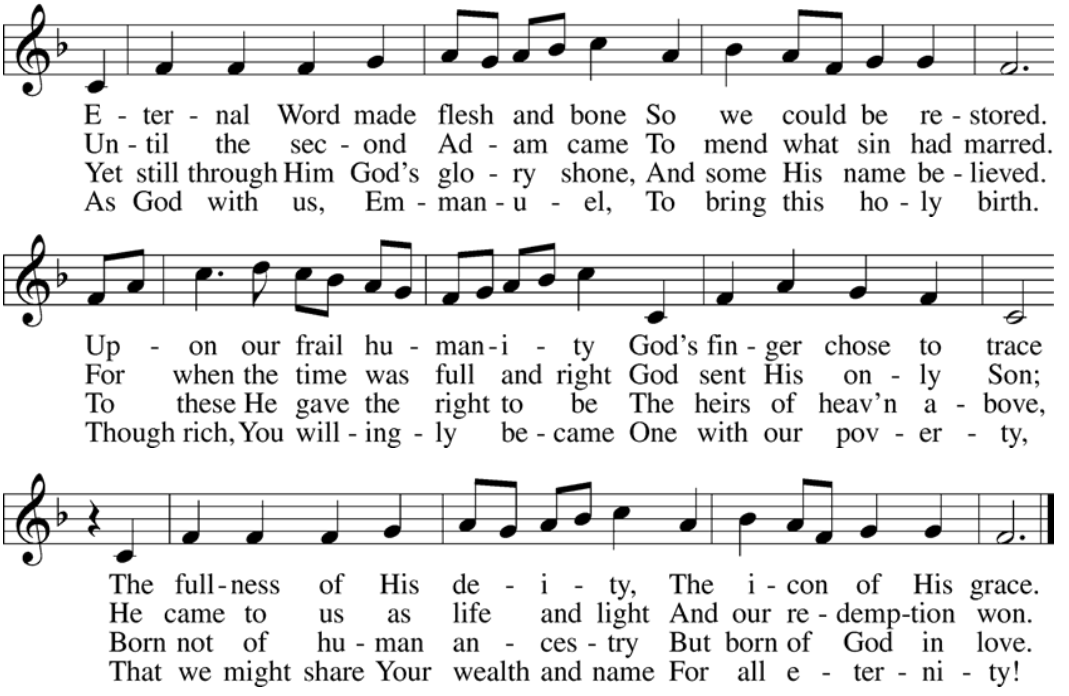
[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was with God in the beginning. [3]Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. [4]In Him was life, and that life was the Light of all mankind.
[5]The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome It.
[6]There was a man sent from God whose name was John. [7]He came as a witness to testify concerning that Light, so that through him all might believe.
[8]He himself was not the Light; he came only as a witness to the Light.
[9]The true Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
[10]He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him.
[11]He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.
[12]Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God
[13]children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
[14]The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL — *O Sing of Christ* (LSB 362)





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RESPONSIVE PRAYER

L Glory to God in the highest
C **And peace to His people on earth.**

L Blessed are You, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
C **Send Your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

L Blessed are You, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
C **Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

L Blessed are You, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
C **Reveal Yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear Your light to all the world. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

L May the Father of glory bless us; May the Son's light shine upon our path;
And may the Spirit of truth hold us in the bonds of love.
C **Amen.**

Sending Song—*Go Tell It on the Mountain* (LBW 70)

***Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!***

***While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. (Refrain)***

***The shepherds feared and trembled When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)***

***Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)***

Postlude

Thank you to:

Leader: Gary Stuhlmiller

Readers: Dave Dickmander, Janet Dickmander, Bev Hudgins, Joe Milko and Marie Snyder

Musician: Erin Hodge

for assisting in leading today's service

UPCOMING AT GRACE

- *Sunday, January 11*
  Discipleship Pathways Step 3 Launch: Growing in Christ

- *Sunday, January 11, 8:30am*
  "Lutheranism 101" class begins

- *Sunday, January 11, 11:30am*
  Taste of Grace— Get to know Pastor Brooks and Grace Lutheran Church

- *Wednesday, January 21*
  Wednesdays at One—Chocolate Making (12:30pm Lunch, 1pm Session)
  RSVP to office@gracedurham.org

- *May 9-16*
  Puerto Rico Mission Trip—If you are interested, please reach out to Deaconess Anna at dco.anna.voelker@gracedurham.org.

Visit our website at gracedurham.org/news for the full calendar of events and small group (PALS) meetings.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Ushers	***Communion Assistants***	***Altar Guild***
Dave Dickmander	Marie Snyder	Marie Snyder
Tom McGill, Acolyte	Gary Stuhlmiller	John Kolba
		Denese Lee
Readers	***Greeter***	***A/V Operator***
(see pg. 19)	Kathy Peterson	John Kolba

GRACE STAFF

Pastor
Rev. David Brooks

Parish Administrator
Kim Romigh

Director of Christian Outreach
Deaconess Anna Voelker

Music Director/Organist
Erin Hodge

Grace Lutheran Church

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

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Livestream

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Meeting ID: 847 8043 7557

Passcode: 9196826030

Giving

Grace Generous Giving
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Hover over the QR code with your phone camera and it will take you to our giving page to make a donation.