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

December 24, 2025

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve



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

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?

Welcome, and thank you for joining us for Christmas Eve worship at Grace Lutheran Church. We are grateful you chose to share this Holy night with us. If you are visiting with us today, we invite you to take a moment to share your name and contact information below. This helps us thank you personally for being here and, if you wish, to stay connected with you in the days ahead.
We are glad you are here, and we pray this service has been a meaningful celebration of Christ's birth for you and your loved ones.

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

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.

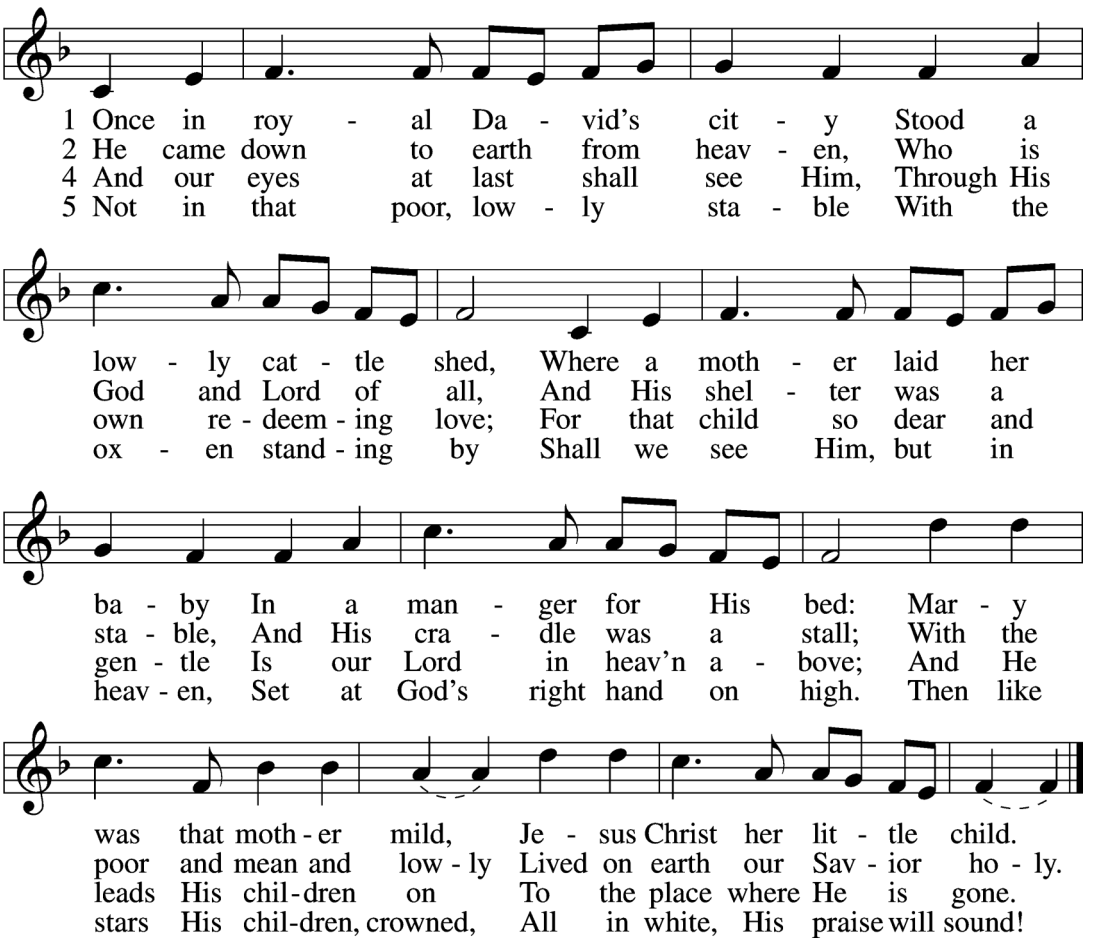
† = *Please stand as you are able.*

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

Prelude

Christmas Proclamation

† Opening Hymn — *Once in Royal David's City* (LSB 376) Verses 1-2, 4-5



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.**

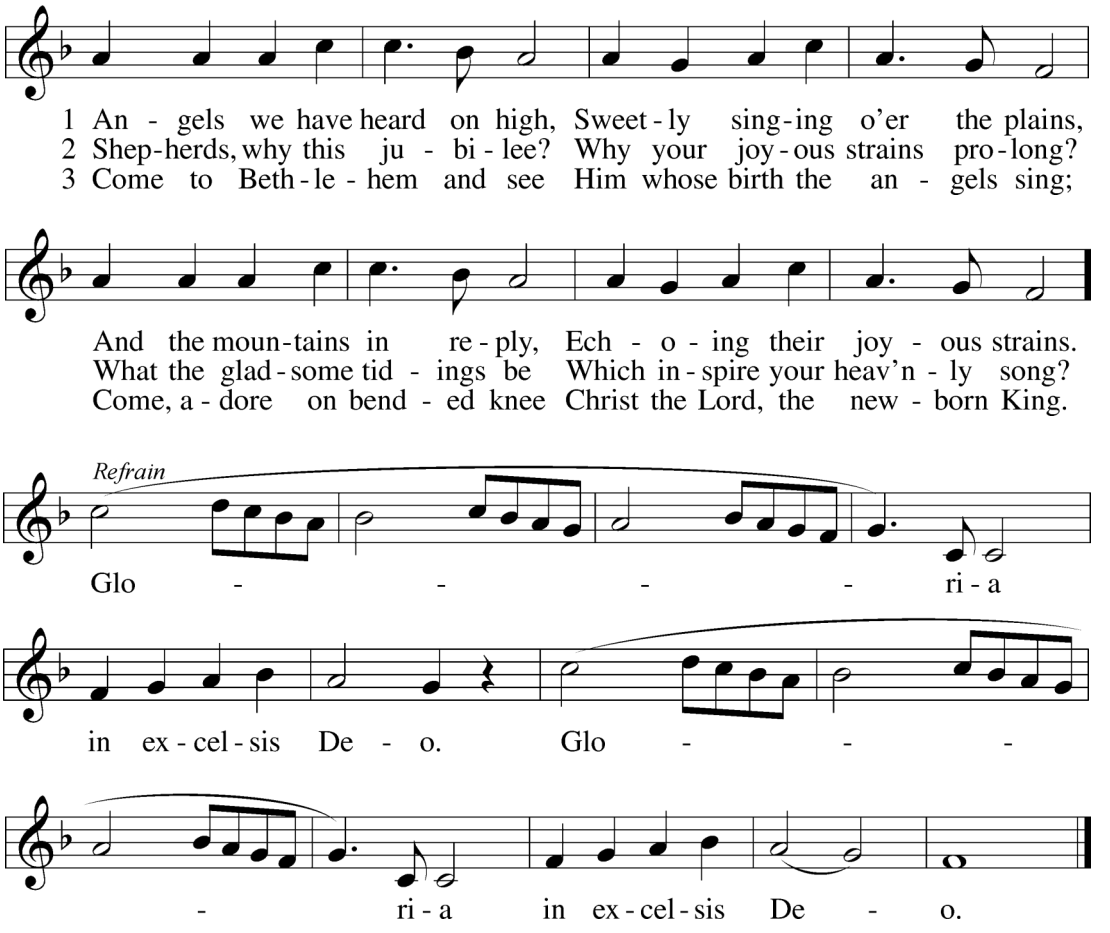
P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

† Kyrie


A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
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)



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

† Prayer of the Day

P 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.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2–7 (Pew Bible, pg. 573)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 9th Chapter of Isaiah.

[2] The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep
darkness, on them has light shined.
[3]You have multiplied the nation;
You have increased its joy;
they rejoice before You as with joy at
the harvest, as they are glad when
they divide the spoil.
[4]For the yoke of his burden, and the staff
for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
[5]For every boot of the tramping warrior in
battle tumult and every garment rolled in
blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.
[6]For to us a child is born, to us a son is
given; and the government shall be upon
His shoulder, and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
[7]Of the increase of His government and
of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His
kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96 — *Today is Born Our Savior* (Gather 90)

(Congregation sings refrain after verses)



1 Sing out to God a new song, sing out to God all you lands; sing out in joy, sing out in love to our God!

2 Announce God's salvation forever, and glory proclaim to the earth; tell all the peoples the wondrous deeds of our God.

3 Let us rejoice in our Savior, Who has come now to rule the earth; rule it in justice, rule it in mercy forever!

4 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice, let the seas now resound in Your praise! Let the plains be joyful, and the forests exalt!

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THE EPISTLE LESSON

Titus 2:11–14 (Pew Bible, pg. 998)

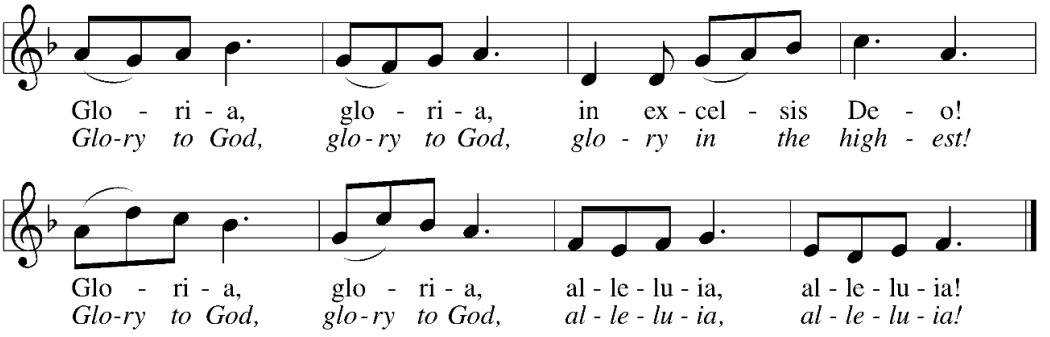
The Epistle Lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Titus.

[11]For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12]training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, [13]waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14]Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation



Text: Traditional
Music: GLORIA 3, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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† Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1–14 (Pew Bible, pg. 857)

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.
℃ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[1]In those days a decree went out from
Caesar Augustus that all the world
should be registered. [2]This was the first
registration when Quirinius was governor
of Syria. [3]And all went to be registered,
each to his own town. [4]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,
[5]to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,
who was with child. [6]And while they were
there, the time came for her to give birth.
[7]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.
[8]And in the same region there were
shepherds out in the field, keeping watch
over their flock by night.
[9]And an angel of the Lord appeared to
them, and the glory of the Lord shone
around them, and they were filled with
fear. [10]And the angel said to them,
"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good
news of a great joy that will be for all the
people. [11]For unto you is born this day in
the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ
the Lord. [12]And this will be a sign for you:
you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling
cloths and lying in a manger."
[13]And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host praising
God and saying,
[14]"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with
whom He is pleased!"

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord. ℃ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon—*The Rev. Dr. David H. Brooks*

† Hymn of the Day — *O Sing of Christ* (LSB 362)



Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227
Tune: Public domain

† Nicene Creed *(spoken in unison)*

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*

† Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs. . .

After each prayer, the congregation responds:

P Lord in Your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

(The prayers conclude)

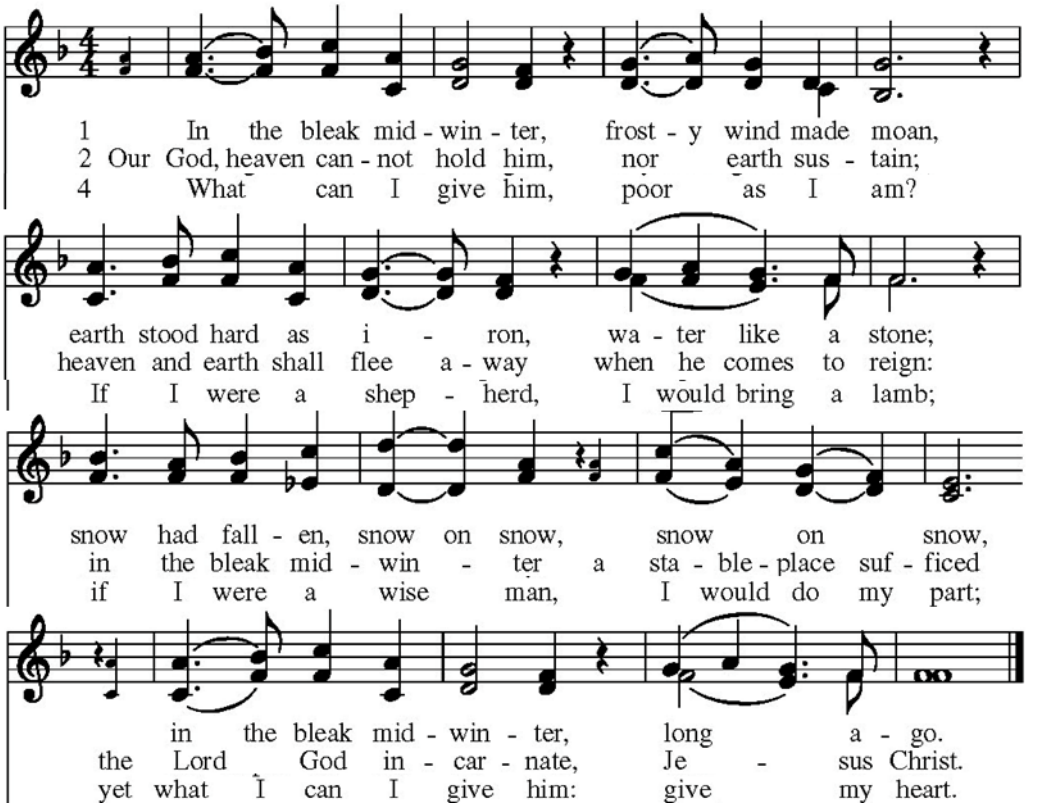
P Into Your hands…
C **Amen.**

† Sharing of the Peace

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, with the 'hand wave of peace', as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Offertory Music

† OFFERTORY — *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Verses 1,2,4)



† Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



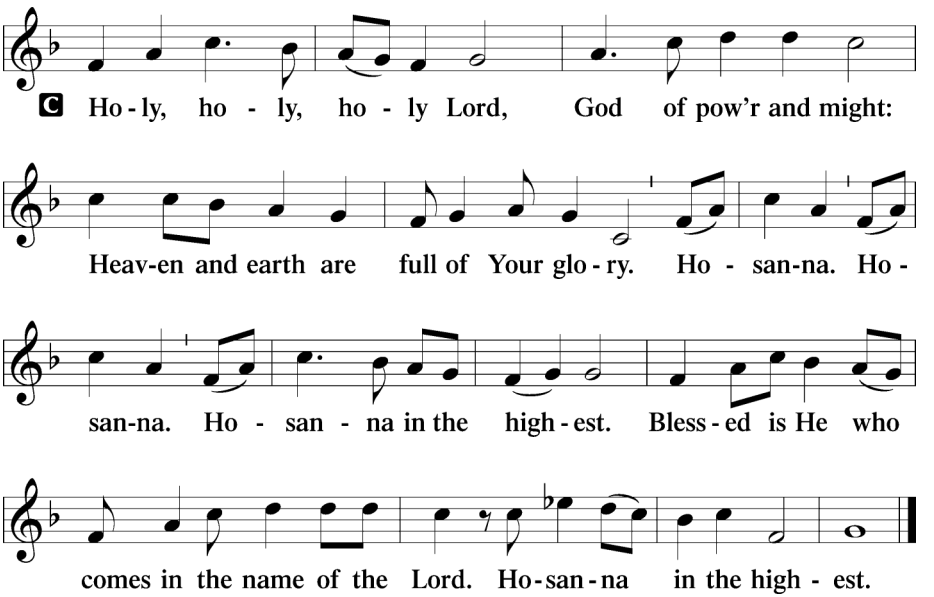
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is truly good, right, and salutary … and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



† Eucharistic 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.**

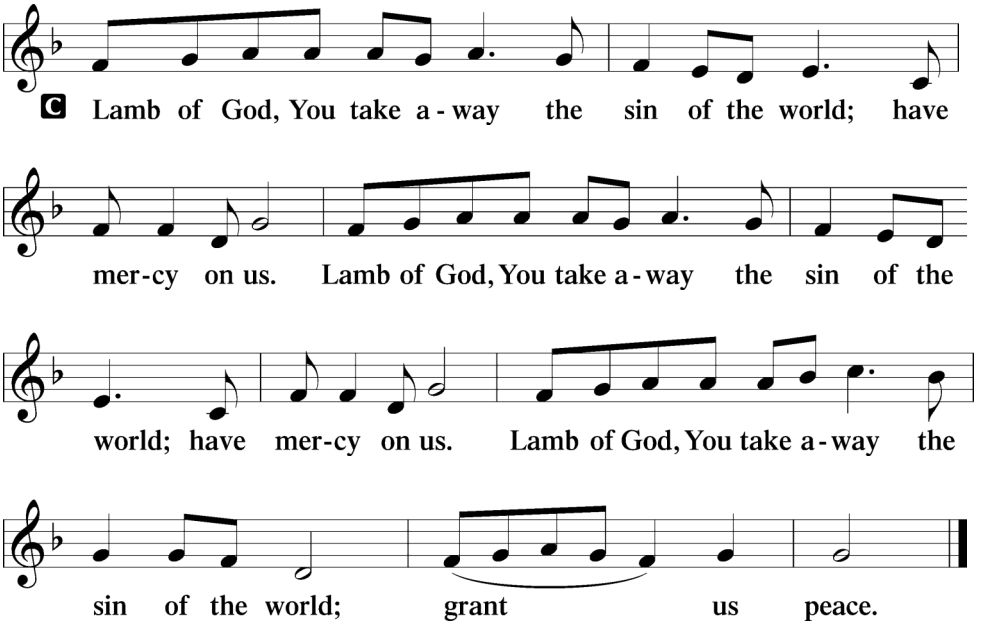
P Join our prayers with those of Your servants …
… until He comes as victorious Lord of all.

C **Amen.**

† Lord's Prayer

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.

† Agnus Dei



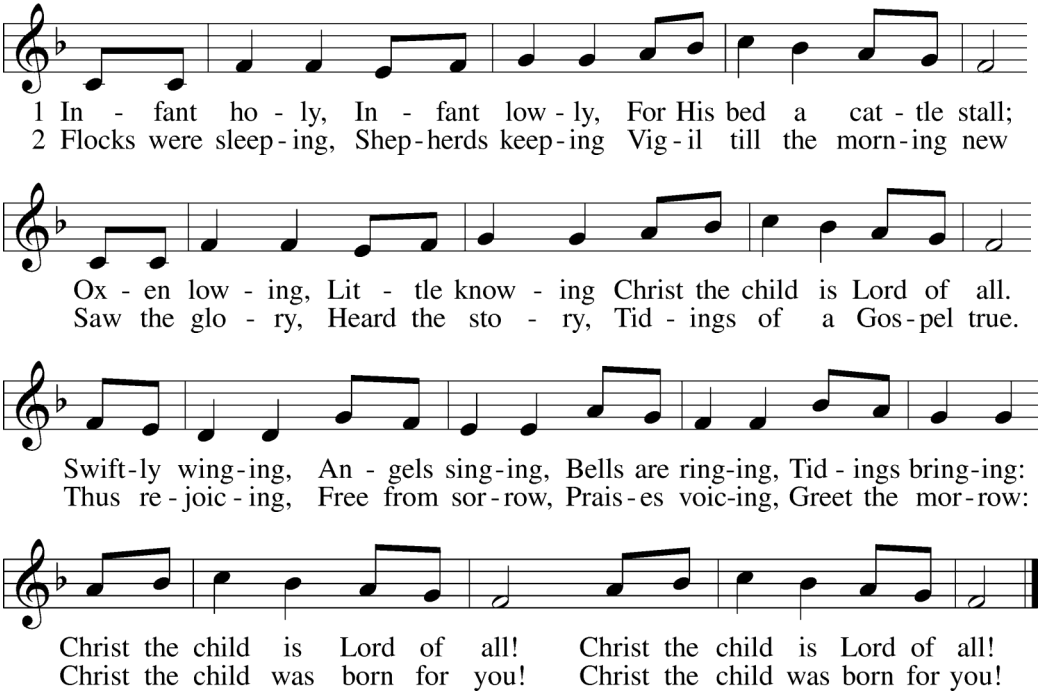
Holy Communion

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. Baptized Christians 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)



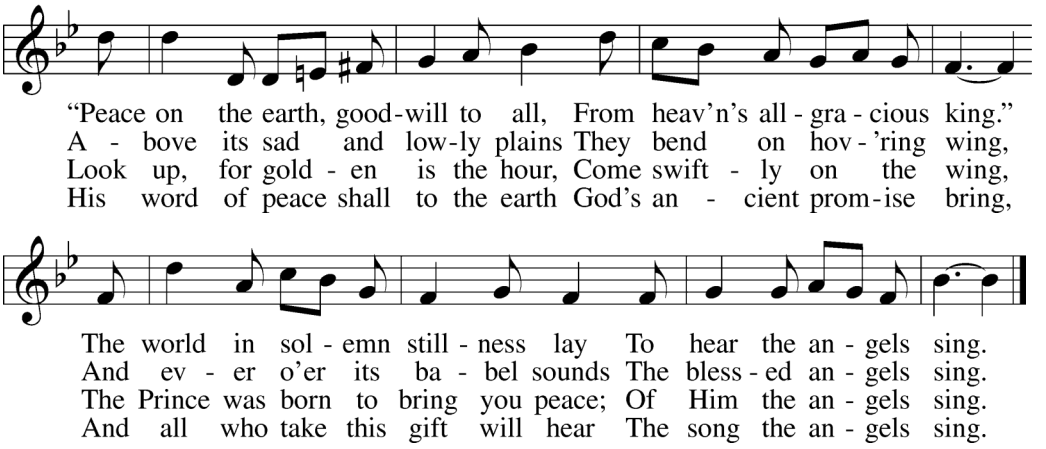
Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Text and tune: Polish Text and tune: Public domain

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (LSB 366)



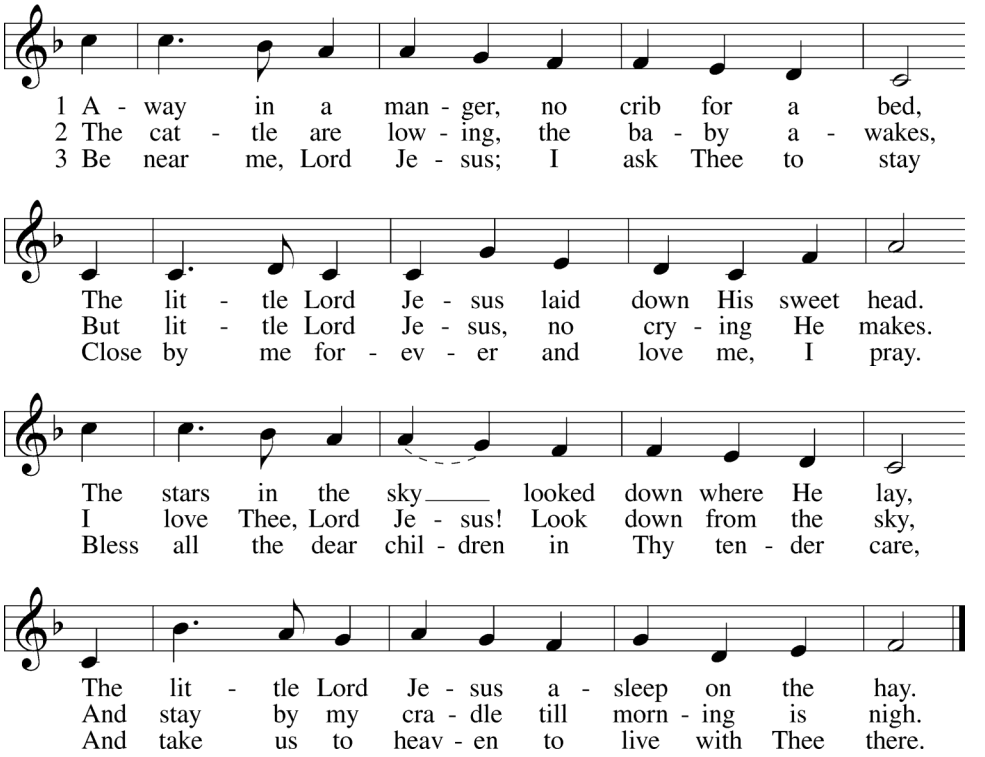
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It Came Upon a Midnight Clear *(continued)*



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

Away in a Manger (LSB 364)



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

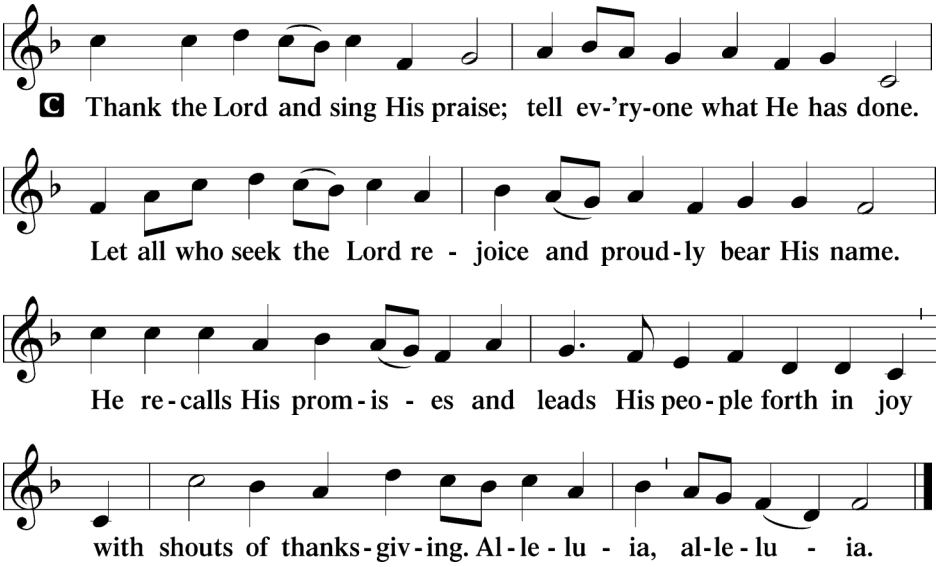
Joy to the World (LSB 387)



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

Blessing

Thank the Lord



GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT

Benediction

Candle Lighting and Closing

Please light your candle at this time.

P Arise, shine, for Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1).

R 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).

R 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)

R 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).

R "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)

P 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).

Closing Hymn — *Silent Night, Holy Night* (LSB 363)



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



UPCOMING AT GRACE

- *Saturday, December 27 , 7pm*
  "A Christmas Carol" with Brendan White

- *Sunday, December 28 , 10:10am*
  A Service of Lessons and Carols

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

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

- *Wednesday, January 21, 12:30pm Lunch, 1pm Session*
  Wednesdays at One—Chocolate Making. 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.

For more information about Grace's various ministries,
Visit gracedurham.org/get-involved.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Ushers
Walt Crosmer
Tom McGill, Acolyte

Communion Assistant
Gary Stuhlmiller

Altar Guild
Denese Lee
John Kolba
Marie Snyder

Reader
Walt Crosmer

A/V Operator
Joe Wethman

GRACE STAFF

Pastor
Rev. David Brooks

Parish Administrator
Kim Romigh

Director of Christian Outreach
Deaconess Anna Voelker

Music Director/Organist
Erin Hodge

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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.