



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

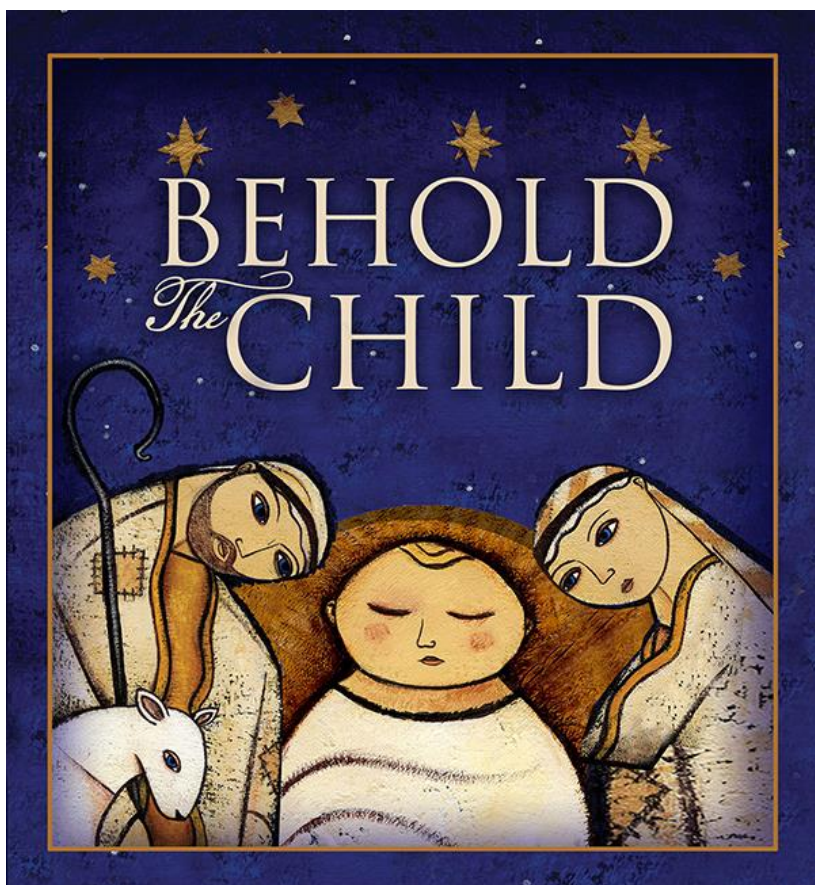
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

475 North Ave. W. Brooksville, FL 34601

“THE CHURCH THAT IS A FAMILY”

The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church:

Reach, Teach, & Preach



Rev. Paul Meseke-Pastor

Robin Walter-Organist/Choir Dir.

Bob Love – Custodian

Sharon Kostner – Church Secretary

Sunday Worship Service-10am

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9-1

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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

ALL THE WORLD WITH
THE KEY TO HIS FREE GRACE

AS WE GATHER

When something is important, we attach a lofty word to it. So it is today. Christmas rejoices in the *incarnation*. That is of Latin origin, confessing that the Son of God is *in the flesh*. A chief mystery of the Christian faith, the eternal God takes on human flesh.

How can this be? St. Augustine marveled at the incarnation in which the Creator of all things enters His creation, in which He enters a womb that He had formed. It transcends our minds, for God transcends our minds.

Yet we confess the incarnation; we believe it; we rejoice in it for we receive unending blessings from it. God in human flesh brings all God's blessings to humans. Chief among them is His grace. John speaks of the incarnation, saying that the Word became flesh. And then he tells us the divine purpose for the incarnation. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

That gives words to our song:

There they found the wonder child, in lowly swaddling clothes lying,
Yet all the world with His free grace supplying.

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** For to us a child is born,
C **To us a son is given;**
P And the government shall be upon His shoulder,
C **And His name shall be called**
P Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** “When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:4–7).
Let us welcome our newborn Savior with penitent hearts that trust in His grace.
C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379)



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,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



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!
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



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:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



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



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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KYRIE (spoken)

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For peace from the child born to us and the salvation He won for us, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world of which the angels sang, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who fill it with Christmas carols, their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

C 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;

P 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.

BELL CHOIR: What Child is this?

Director: Robin Walter

OLD TESTAMENT READING

P The Old Testament Reading for the Nativity of Our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter fifty-two.

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you waste places 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

P Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel
together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
“Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

“Away in a Manger” (LSB 364), stanza 1

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

P He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury,
saying, as for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”

“Away in a Manger” (LSB 364), stanza 2

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

P I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son;
today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your
heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a
potter’s vessel.”

“Away in a Manger” (LSB 364), stanza 3

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

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P Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son,
lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly
kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

CHOIR: SILENT NIGHT

Director Robin Walter Solo by Ann Eicher

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar; heavenly hosts sing alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born, the Savior is born!
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Lord, at Thy birth.
Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, O lend they light;
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ is born.
Silent night, holy, holy night.*

EPISTLE

P The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapter one.

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making 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.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are My Son,
today I have begotten You”?

Or again,


“I will be to Him a father,
and He shall be to Me a son”?

⁶ And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says,

“Let all God’s angels worship Him.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE “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!

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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 were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 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 bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹² But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY 358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

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SERMON All the World with The Key to His Free Grace

SECOND ARTICLE OF THE CREED (with explanation from Luther's Small Catechism)

C I believe 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.

P *What does this mean?*

C **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P God's own Son is born a child. God the Father is reconciled. So with all boldness and confidence, let us bring our needs before His throne of grace.

Brief silence

P Lord God, heavenly Father, as the shepherds praised Your Son at the angelic news, so fill Your Church throughout the world with joy that all Your people would remain steadfast with faith in Him. God's own Son is born a child,

C **God the Father is reconciled.**

P As the angels announced that their tidings were for joy throughout the world, so cause Your Word to go throughout the world that the Holy Spirit might bring many to faith in Christ. God's own Son is born a child,

C **God the Father is reconciled.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, as the sages brought You gifts from afar, so accept the offerings we present to You. God's own Son is born a child,

C **God the Father is reconciled.**

P Heavenly Father, as Your Son came lowly to free us from all sorrow wholly, visit with grace and mercy all those who are afflicted in mind and spirit, assuring them of Your grace and mercy. God's own Son is born a child,

C **God the Father is reconciled.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, as our songs echo the song of Mary, so accept our thanks for all the faithful who have gone before us. Keep us steadfast in the true faith that we may join them in life everlasting by Your merit. God's own Son is born a child,

C **God the Father is reconciled.**

P Heavenly Father, Your Son came in meekness to bear our weakness. So deliver all those who are sick and injured. If it be Your will, grant them healing in this life. Work amid their affliction to assure them of the full healing awaiting them in life everlasting. God's own Son is born a child,

C **God the Father is reconciled.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are God ever reigning and have gained manhood through Mary. Grant us confidence that only You can make satisfaction for sin so that with boldness and confidence in You we may never falter. God's own Son is born a child,

C **God the Father is reconciled.**

P O Holy Spirit, in Christ the sheep are safe for He will indeed take care of them. As Christ feeds us with His own body and blood, work in us that we may receive this blessed meal in true faith. God's own Son is born a child,

C **God the Father is reconciled.**

P These our prayers we lift to You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for You live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (*LSB* 368), stanza 1

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.

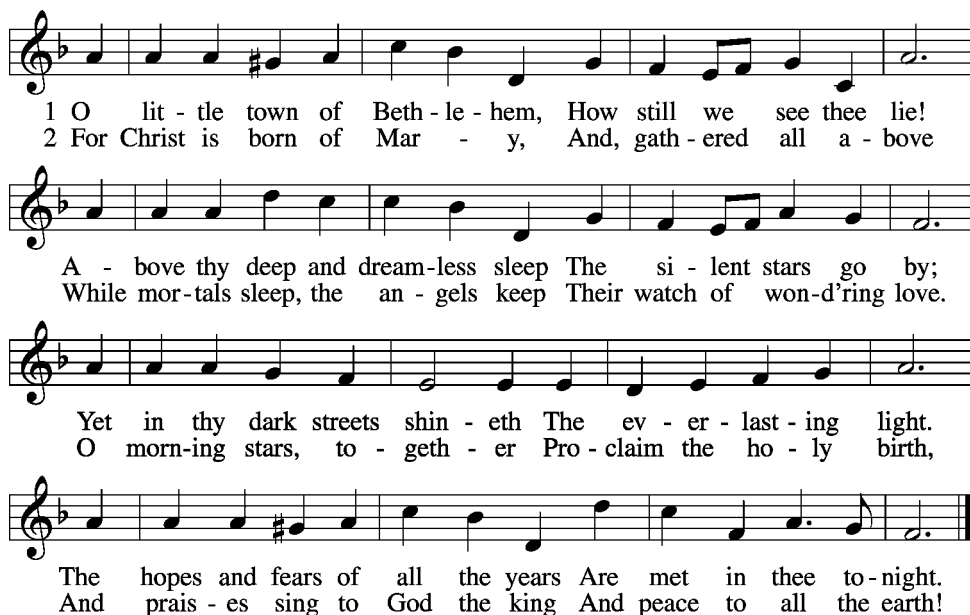
CANDLELIGHT CAROL OF HYMNS

On the bottom of these electric candles is an on/off switch. Please turn the candles on at this time.

P We hear again the Good News from the Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 2. Following each section of the reading, we sing Hymns of Christmas Joy, echoing the sound of the angels on that first Christmas night.

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. 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.

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LSB 361)

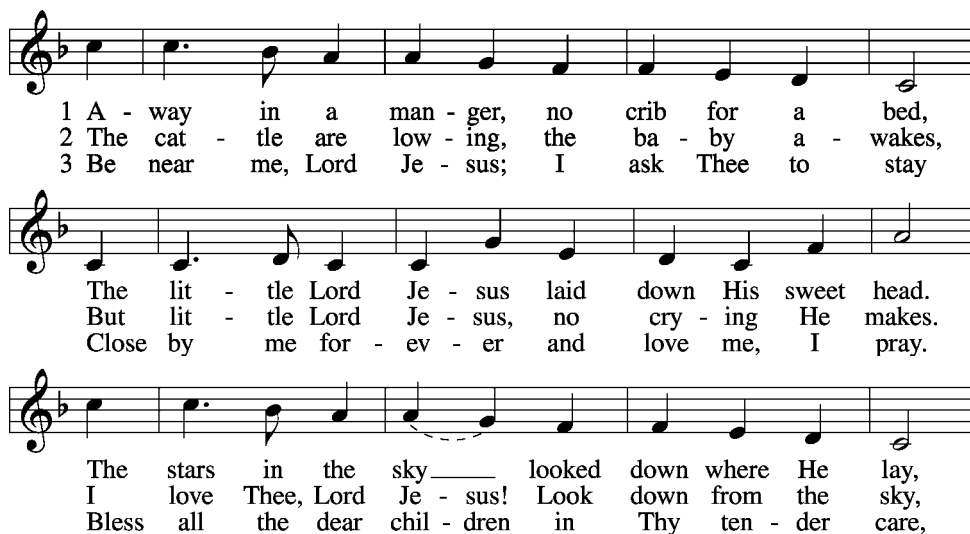


1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 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!

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[P] *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.*

HYMN “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.


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[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, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you in born this day in the city of David and 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.”*

HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (LSB 367)



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,




all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing




Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;

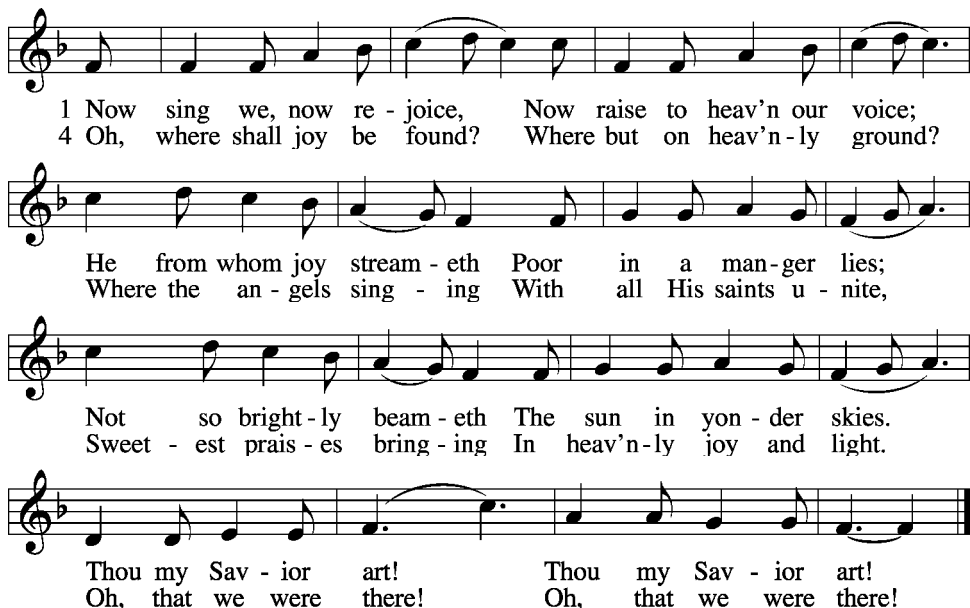


Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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P *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”*

HYMN “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” (LSB 386)



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
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;
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,

Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.

Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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

HYMN “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (LSB 374)



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



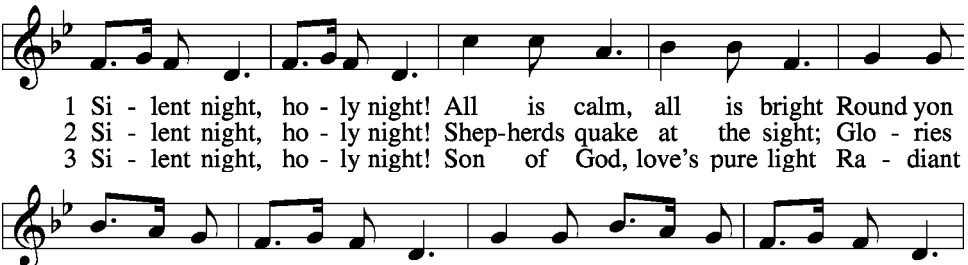
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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[P] *And when they [the shepherds] 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. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as had been told them.*

P St. Luke writes that Mary “treasured up all these things in her heart.” That phrase “all these things” includes her personal experience of that first Christmas night with the angels and the shepherds and the promise of God coming true. God has kept His covenant with his people, and we are blessed by it. With renewing faith, growing hope, and expanding love on this most holy night, let us sing possibly the most well known Christmas hymn; Silent Night.


HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” (LSB 363)



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.

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At this time please turn your candlelight off. Please return them to the boxes in the narthex as you leave.


BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.


C Amen.

HYMN “Joy to the World” (LSB 387)


387 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
play, 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.

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Thank you Nedra Guyette for the floral arrangement on the altar

Thank you all for the Poinsettias adorning our church

Kathleen Barnes
David & Angela Benschneider
Ann Bjorklund
Tim & Mary Coil
Brad & Kathy Colvin
Mickey Denner
Lauretta Dorn
Betty Dunstan
Skip & Lois Erickson
Ken & Gerry Fischer
Pam Gant
Cody Gray
Nedra Guyette
Ruth Hayden
Flora Hite
Phil & Carol Huntwork
Janet Kinzer
Deb Kuzmann
Bob Love
Tom & Ann Reutenauer
Brian & Jackie Sherman
Gerry & Phyllis Smith
Ondrea VanHorn
Rich & Marilyn Wajda
Jim Wilson

