



*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

*~Luke 2: 10-11*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve – December 24, 2025  
420 Beaver St., PO Box 411  
Mars, PA 16046-0411**

**[www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)**

**Phone: 724-625-1830      email: [office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)**

**Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister  
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries**

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!  
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.*

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an \* and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

*This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

## PRELUDE

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### **\*THE INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Today Christ is born. Alleluia, alleluia!

**O come, let us adore him. Alleluia, alleluia!**

#### **\*CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth  
and formed humankind in God's own image;  
long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;  
twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;  
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt  
and Miriam danced in freedom;  
eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;  
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,  
in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;  
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;  
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;  
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;  
while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,  
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,  
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,  
being conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—  
now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

**\*GATHERING SONG *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)**



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The 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!

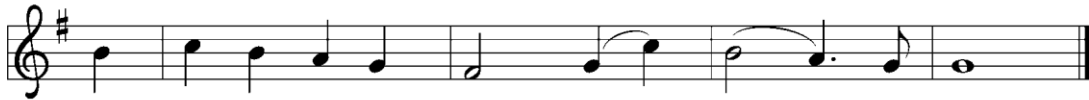


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**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.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289)**



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.



## WORD

*God speaks to us in the scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

A reading from the book of Isaiah:

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —

on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments  
rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* (ELW 282)



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 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, 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 the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time 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 now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



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.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

A reading from the book of Titus:

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SONG *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279)**

*All stand and sing together.*

*During the hymn, candles may be lighted for the reading of the Gospel.*

*Please tilt unlit candles when lighting to avoid dripping wax.*



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



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,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



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!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!





## **\*GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*There will be a moment of reflection in the candlelight after the reading.  
Candles may be extinguished upon instruction.*

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR** *Hear the Bells* (at 7:30 pm)

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**3:00 pm** – Solo by Maizy Fisher, *Mary, Did You Know?*

**7:30 pm** – Choir Anthem, *In Bethlehem a King was Born*

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275)



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

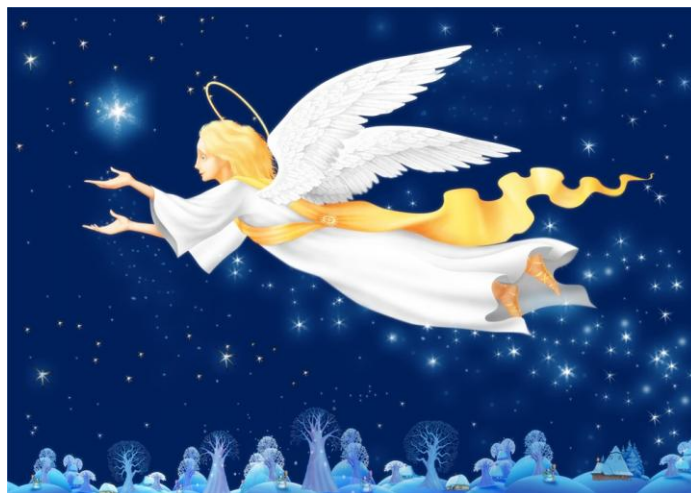


once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.



## **\*NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

**\*Or, “who proceeds from the Father.”**

The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling: Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts, and all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying.

Comfort those who are grieving this night. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Fashion us by the example of the saints who have gone before us into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all, sustained in the blessed hope revealed this night. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## \*SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**3:00 pm** – Solo by Maizy Fisher, Christmas Angels

**7:30 pm** – Choir Anthem, Praise to the King

## COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

*You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we bring our whole selves to worship, our hopes and fears, prayers and gifts, time and devotion, offering to God what God has placed in our care, as God continues working in and through us in mission and ministry in care for our neighbors.*

## OFFERING HYMN *Love Has Come* (ELW 292) \*Rise on the 3rd verse



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

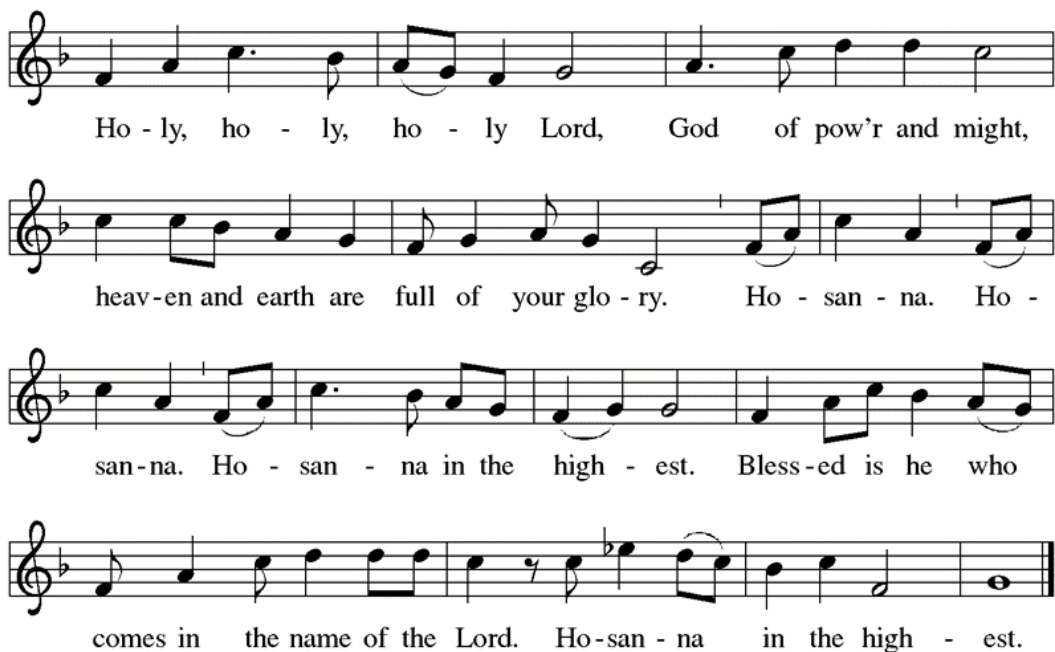
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



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.

Holy God,  
Creator of all and Source of life,  
at the birth of time  
your Word brought light into the world.  
In the fullness of time,  
you sent your Word, born of Mary,  
to shine in our lives  
and to make us your beloved children.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his birth and life among us,  
his death and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,  
that, held and nourished by you,  
we may live as your children,  
shining with the light of your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

**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**

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy for all is now ready. There is a place for you here.

*Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.*

## **COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God***

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.



## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN *The First Noel* (ELW 300)



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . north-west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

#### *Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## *What Child is This?* (ELW 296)



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

### *In the Bleak Midwinter (ELW 294)*



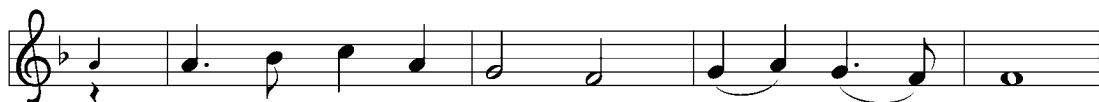
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n 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 al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.  
**Amen.**

### **\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the word.*

### **\*BLESSING**

May the triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG *Silent Night, Holy Night* (ELW 281)**



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 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,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 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 your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 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 your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



Our Christmas celebration continues...

**Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day – 9:00 am**

**Sunday, December 28, Service of Lessons and Carols – 9:00 am**

**Sunday, January 4, All-Ages Christmas and Epiphany Pageant – 9:00 am**

#### Today's Music

*O Come, All Ye Faithful.* Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2, Music: attr. John Francis Wade. Public Domain.

*Angels We Have Heard on High.* Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864, Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958. Public Domain.

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear.* Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900. Public Domain.

*O Little Town of Bethlehem.* Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Public Domain.

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory.* Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4, Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879. Public Domain.

*Love Has Come.* Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950, Music: F. Seguin, Recueil de Noël composés en langue provençale, 1856. Music Services, Inc. / Augsburg Fortress.

*The First Noel.* Text: English traditional, Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901. Public Domain.

*In the Bleak Midwinter.* Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894, Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934. Public Domain.

*What Child Is This.* Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, Music: English ballad, 16th cent. Public Domain.

*Silent Night, Holy Night.* Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885, Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. Public Domain.

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#### **Special Music:**

*Christmas Angels.* Text and Music: Jonas Myrin and Michael W Smith

*Mary Did You Know.* Text and Music: Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

*In Bethlehem a King was Born.* Text and Music: Sheryl Mortieau

*Praise to the King.* Text and Music: Traci Law

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