

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2021

In Time, As Promised

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Christ Jesus. As we worship, we pray that you will open your heart in preparation as our Savior comes to us through the word and sacraments. If you are a guest, please sign your name, address and most importantly your phone number in our Guest Book in the entrance and come and worship with us again. If we can be of assistance to you in your spiritual walk through life please let us know. We invite you to join us for refreshments after the service in the room adjoining the worship facility.



AS WE GATHER

God's love was promised and fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Despite ongoing sin and sinfulness by His human creatures, God loved us so much that our Lord was born as one of us so that He could die for us. When He appeared on the scene of human history, it marked the start of His fulfilling the very promises He had made centuries before. But His love was not finished for us until He was born in our hearts. That took the gracious gift of faith by which we receive His great love and are enabled to share it with others. We now celebrate the start of Christ's love at His birth in Bethlehem and His finishing it as He is born anew in our hearts in time and into eternity.

COMMUNION PRACTICE

Lamb of God celebrates the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

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!

🕯️ INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Isaiah 9:2–7

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

P: You have multiplied the nation;

C: **You have increased its joy;**

P: they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest,

C: **as they are glad when they divide the spoil.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

All Advent candles are lit.



P: Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 4:9, 12b

P: Brothers and sisters, although “God abides in us and His love is perfected in us,” we sin every day and need the assurance of His forgiveness. Let us go to God, seeking His power to amend our sinful lives. Lord Jesus, the love of God made manifest among us,

C: **we have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Without Your help we cannot change. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

🕒 HYMN OF PRAISE

“Joy to the World”

[LSB 387]

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

C: **Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge;**

P: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

(A virgin birth will be the sign provided by God.)

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



HYMN

O Come O Come Emmanuel

[LSB 357]

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And teach us in her ways to go.
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing night;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

EPISTLE

1 John 4:7–16

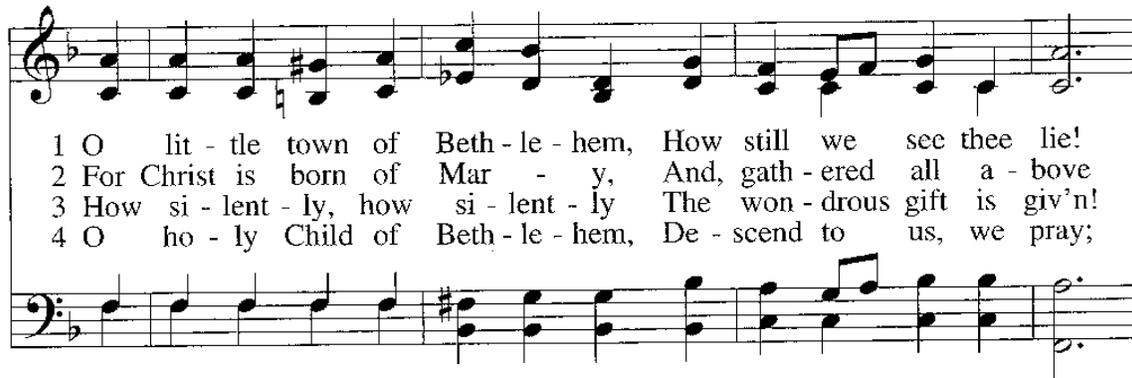
(Whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.)

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

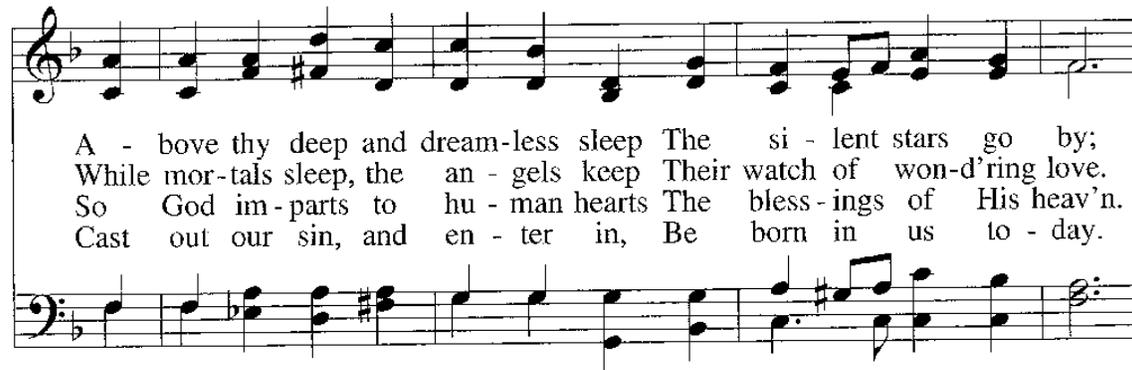
L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

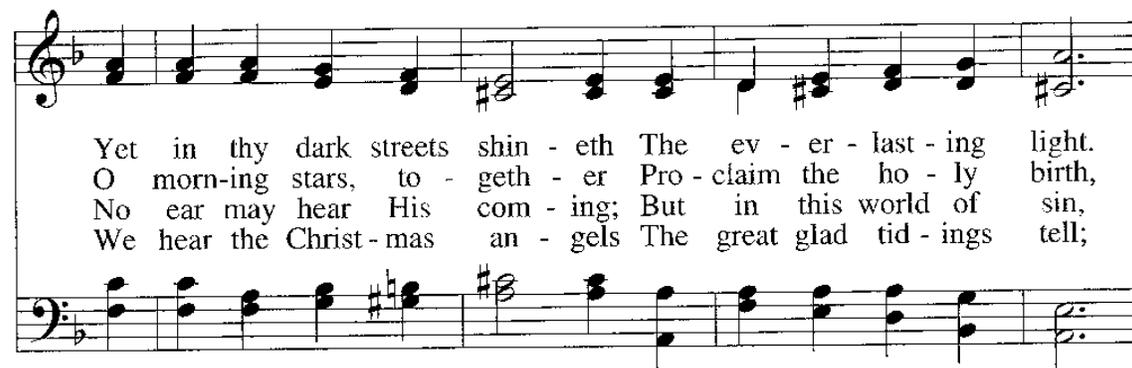




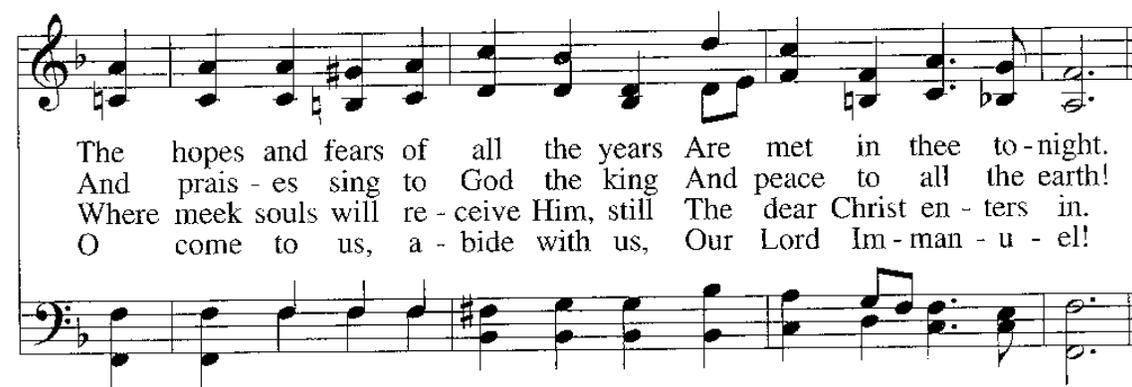
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



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.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

📌 HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.



🔊 HYMN OF THE DAY "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

[LSB 359]

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness

sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright

cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

SERMON

📌 CREED

Apostle's Creed

C: I Believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

📌 PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: God entered human history in the person of Jesus, who experienced all our joys and sorrows. He has promised that our heavenly Father will hear whatever we ask in His name. Let us bring our requests to Him in confident faith.

Wonderful Counselor, we pray that You will give empathy, wisdom, and compassion to all who seek to meet the needs of the people around them, providing food, clothing, and shelter, tending to the sick and injured, and responding to human crises and natural disasters. Remember, we pray, those with special needs and those known only to You. As You give us opportunity, grant that we may be part of Your answers to their petitions.

Mighty God, whose Word created all things in heaven and on earth, when storms rage, fires spread, or the earth trembles, give courage and skill to those who would provide rescue, relief, and shelter. Bless those who till the soil and raise crops and all who manage and distribute the world's bounty, that the hungry be fed, the poor clothed, and the displaced given shelter. Gracious God, receive our plea;

C: hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.

P: Everlasting Father, shower Your grace on all families, enabling parents and children to grow in faith and love. In neighborhoods, communities, and cities where there is discord, open doors of peace; where there is discrimination, provide justice; where there is loneliness, provide companionship. Bless individuals and organizations to use the talents and resources You provide to restore dignity, health, and peace to everyone in their care. Gracious God, receive our plea;

C: hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.

P: Prince of Peace, use the earthly powers that be to put into positions of authority those who will work for justice within their nations and cooperation across their borders. Give protection and courage to police and first responders in their communities and to armed forces deployed. Where wars threaten, move leaders to seek calm; where long-term animosity gives rise to fear and hatred, open avenues of communication and understanding. Grant that Your Church stand as a beacon in this troubled world to proclaim the Gospel and exhibit loving forgiveness in Your name. Grant that many find the peace they seek in You, our gracious Savior. Gracious God, receive our plea;

C: hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.

P: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.



Plates are in the Fellowship Hall

Please enter your attendance in the Record of Fellowship

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and entered human history in the person of Your Son so that we might enter Your eternal kingdom. He fulfilled the prophecy and was born of the Virgin so that He might die on a cross and thereby give us eternal life. As we celebrate His birth, we give thanks for our new birth, for His abiding with us throughout our journey, and for the assurance of heaven He won for us. To You – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – be all praise and glory, now and forever. Remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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.

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

[LSB 380]

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

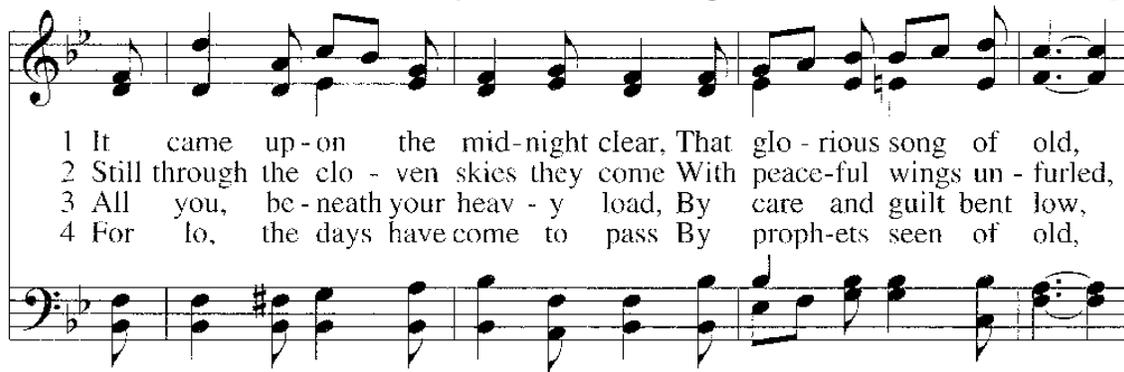
CANDLELIGHTING

[During the following hymn, a Gospel procession will form and move to the center of the sanctuary. Individual candles are lit from those of the candle bearers and on through the congregation.]

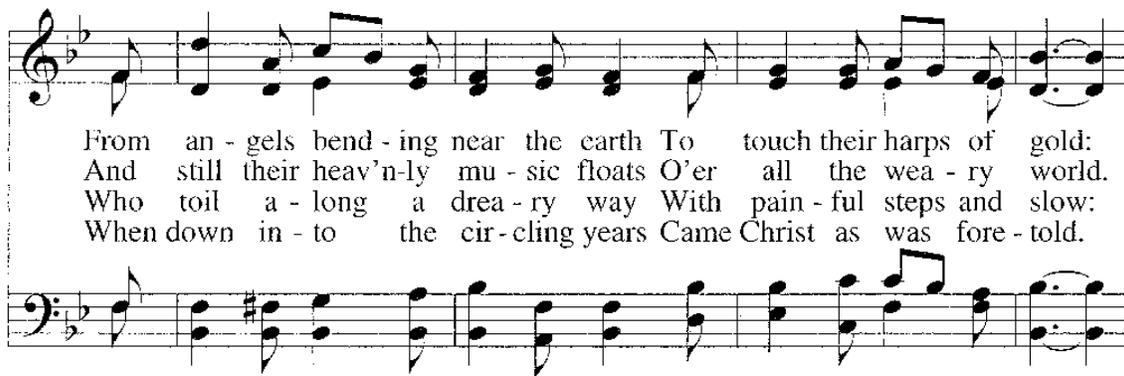
HYMN

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

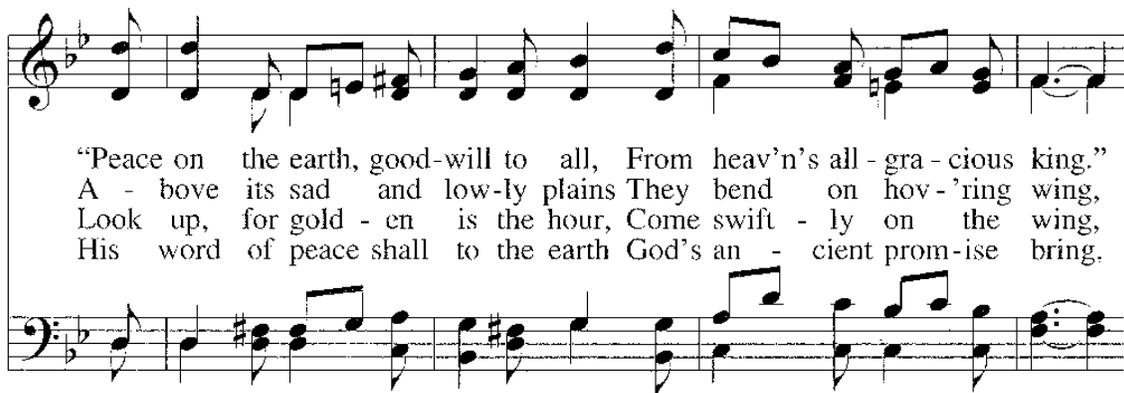
[LSB 366]



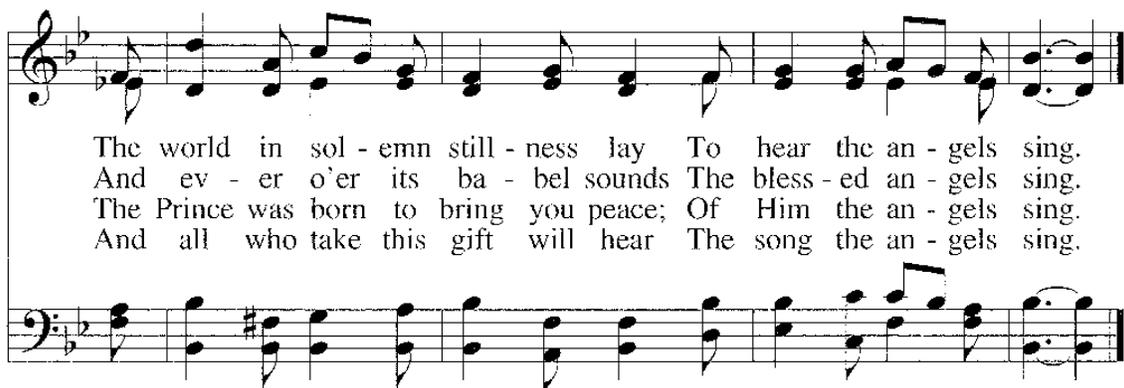
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king.”
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring.



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

[When all the candles are lit:]

📌 HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:8–17

(Angels announce the Savior's birth to shepherds.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly 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."

¹⁵When 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. ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

[The Gospel procession continues toward the back of the sanctuary during the hymn.]



Silent Night, Holy 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 - 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.

🔊 COLLECT

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.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you and fill you with Christmas peace and joy, now and forever.

C: Amen.