FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

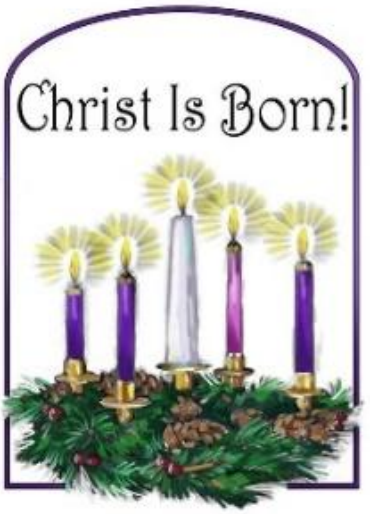
The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2025

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

10:00* am

*livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube



WRAPPED PRESENTS

This Advent, we prepared for our Christmas celebration by considering various ways our seasonal decorations amplify the real meaning of Christmas. Though many of the reasons behind holiday decorations go unappreciated and even unnoticed, they still point us to Christ. Some of the decorations do this in a more obvious way. Even the most secular of souls sees baby Jesus in the crèche. But even seemingly nonreligious signs of the season like evergreens and lights originated in Christendom.

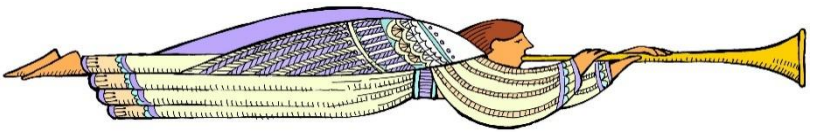
Now, as we have come to the Twelve Days of Christmas, we consider another Christian tradition: the exchange of Christmas presents. The giving of gifts, beautifully wrapped, reflects the gracious love of our heavenly Father, the "Father of lights," from whom "every good gift and every perfect gift" comes (James 1:17). Certainly, the greatest gift of all is none other than what we have come to celebrate: God's self-offering to us through His Son for the forgiveness of our sin. It is a gift that produces abundant blessings for us and in us. These blessings know no end. They regenerate and renew us as we walk into the bright eternity God has in store for us. The gift is all wrapped up in the babe, who lies in a manger. Come, let us adore Him!

Rev. Eric J. Edwards ✢ ***Rev. Liwei Sui*** ✢ *Dr. Priscilla Gabriel, Director of Parish Music*
2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✢ 812-332-1668 ✢ office@faithbtown.org

PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS

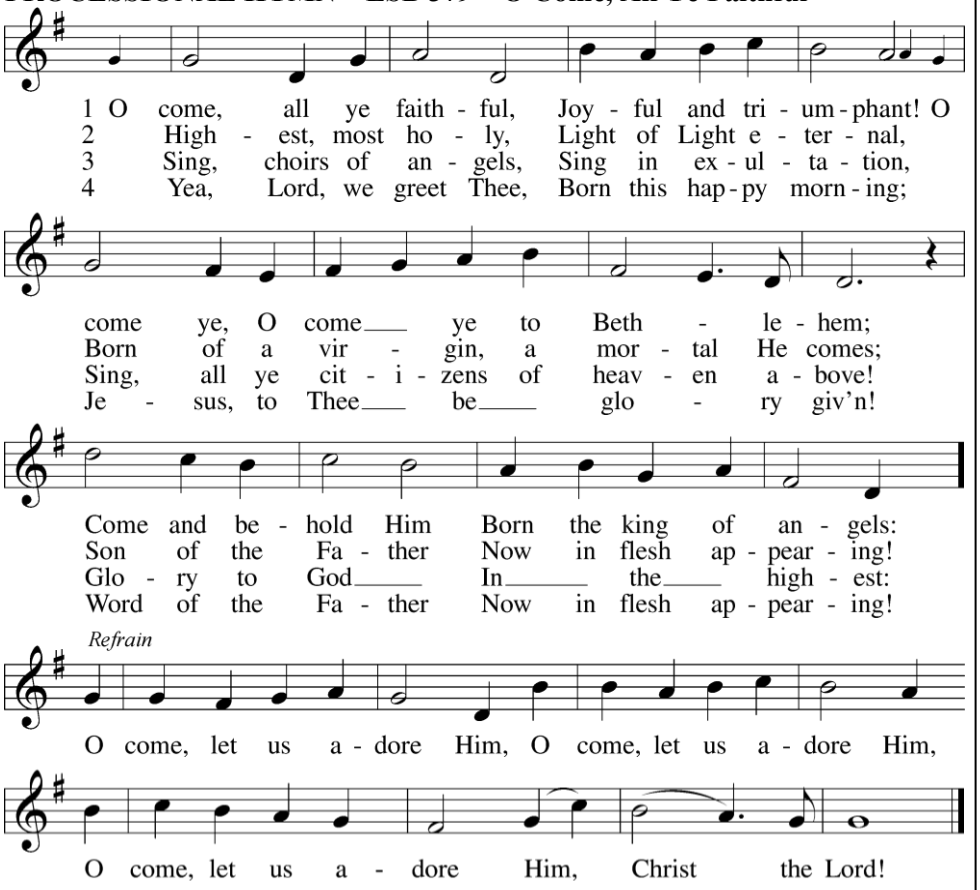
The **Christmas Proclamation** was historically sung on December 24th as part of the daily cycle of prayers.
It is printed here for you to ponder before we begin our worship service as a reminder that
the birth of Jesus Christ in the flesh is at the center of all history.
Come, let us adore Him!

The eighth day before the first of January, fifth day of the lunar month.
Innumerable ages having passed since the creation of the world, when in the beginning God created Heaven and earth and formed man in his own image;
many more centuries after the flood, when the Most High placed his rainbow in the heavens as a sign of the covenant and of peace;
from the migration of Abraham, our father in faith, from Ur of the Chaldeans, twenty-one centuries;
from the exodus of the people of Israel out of Egypt, led by Moses, thirteen centuries;
from the anointing of David as King, about one thousand years;
in the sixty-fifth according to Daniel's prophecy;
in the year of the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
from the founding of the city of Rome, seven hundred and fifty-two years;
in the rule of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the forty-second year;
the whole world being at peace:
Jesus Christ, eternal God, the eternal Father's Son, being pleased by His coming to consecrate the world, by the Holy Spirit conceived, nine months having passed since His conception, in Bethlehem of Judah was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
The Nativity of our Lord JESUS CHRIST according to the flesh.



✢ ✢ ✢ GATHERING ✢ ✢ ✢

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *People, Look East!* (arr. Malcolm Archer)
Jonathan Elmore, tenor

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – LSB 379 – O Come, All Ye Faithful

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES - *John 1:14*

P And the Word became flesh

C **and dwelt among us,**

P and we have seen His glory,

C **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

People, look east!
The time is near
Of the crowning of
the year. Make your
house fair as you are
able, Trim the hearth
and set the table.
People, look east and
sing today: Love, the
guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad.
Though earth is bare,
One more seed is
planted there:
Give up your
strength the seed to
nourish, that in
course the flower
may flourish.
People, look east and
sing today: Love, the
rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the
watch. When night is
dim one more light
the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the
frosty weather,
Bright as sun and
moon together.
People, look east and
sing today: Love, the
star, is on the way.

Angels, announce
with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings
new life to earth.
Set every peak and
valley humming
With the word, the
Lord is coming.
People, look east and
sing today: Love, the
Lord, is on the way.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION – *John 1:9–13*

P The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

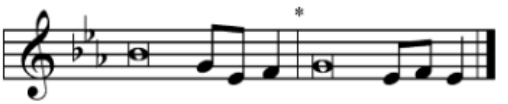
As we gather together this Christmas, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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 But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Because of the Savior who is the Word made flesh and dwelt among us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** **Amen.**

✢ ✢ ✢ WORD ✢ ✢ ✢

INTROIT – ***Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6***

Choir: 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.

C **Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!***
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

Choir: The Lord has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

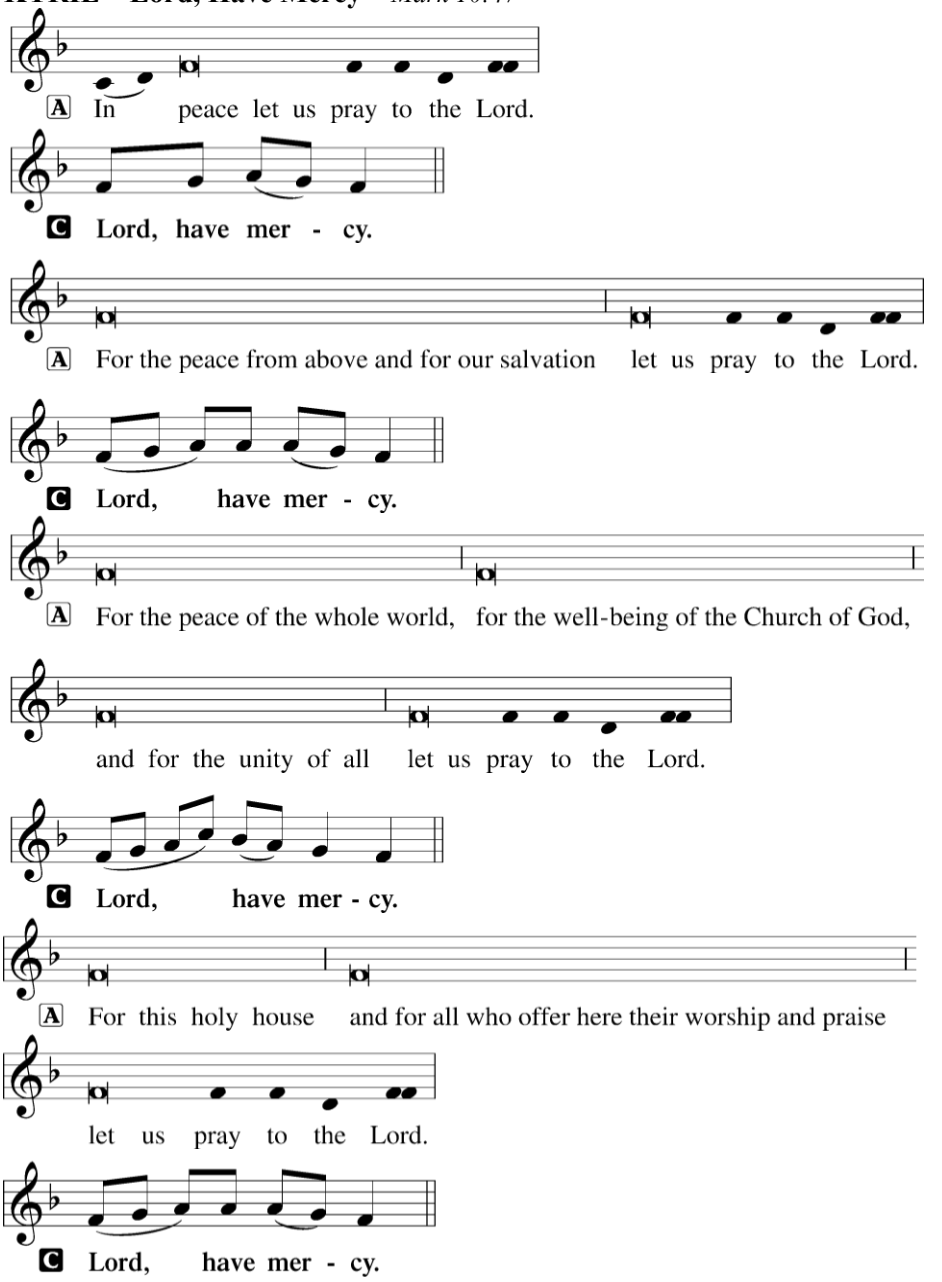
C **He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.***
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

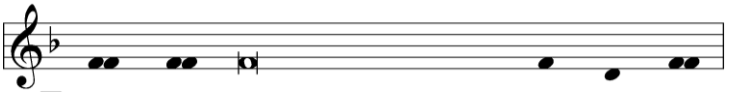
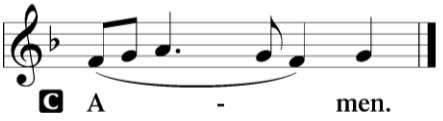
Choir: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

C **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;**
as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now and will be forever. | Amen.
For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

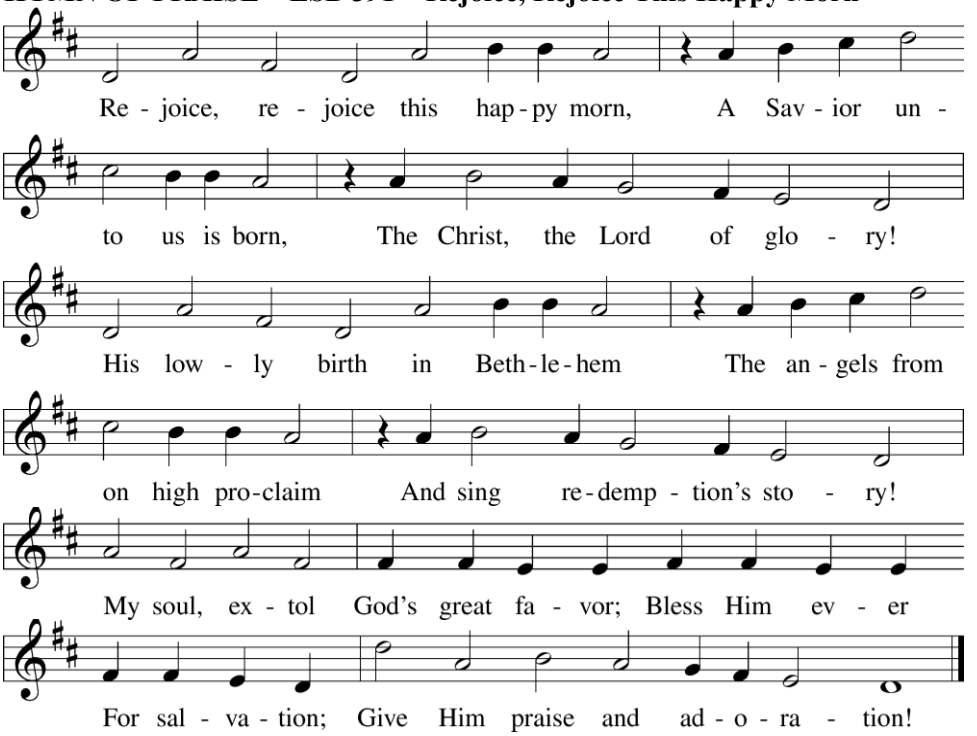
and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – *Mark 10:47*





HYMN OF PRAISE – LSB 391 – Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn



SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Everlasting Father, You brought us peace even as we rebelled against You. Thank You for being faithful to Your promise to give us a Messiah to save us from our sins and give us an eternal inheritance of reconciliation with You. Grant that, as Your children, we may hold fast to Your merciful love, that we may cling to our inheritance and enjoy the blessings of life in Your holy family; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Brother, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

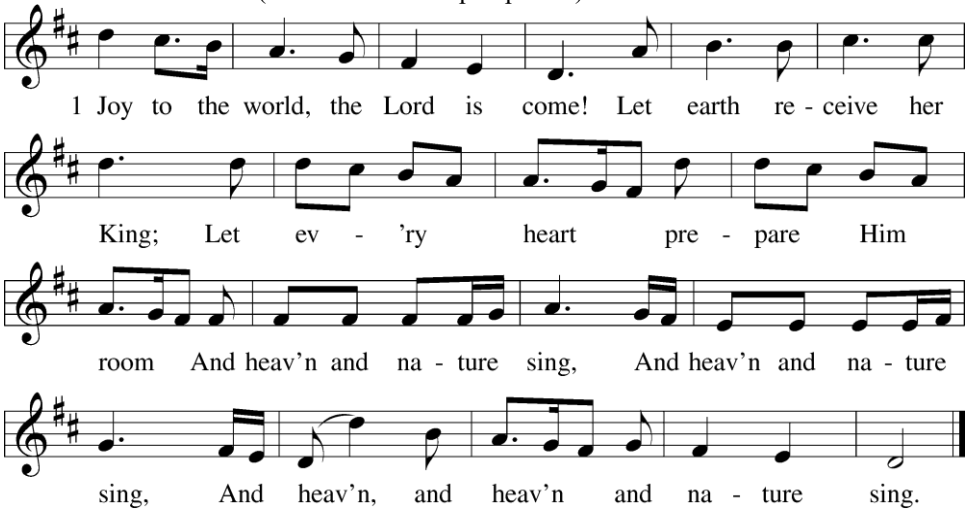
C **Amen**.

OLD TESTAMENT – **Isaiah 52:7-10** – The Lord's coming salvation

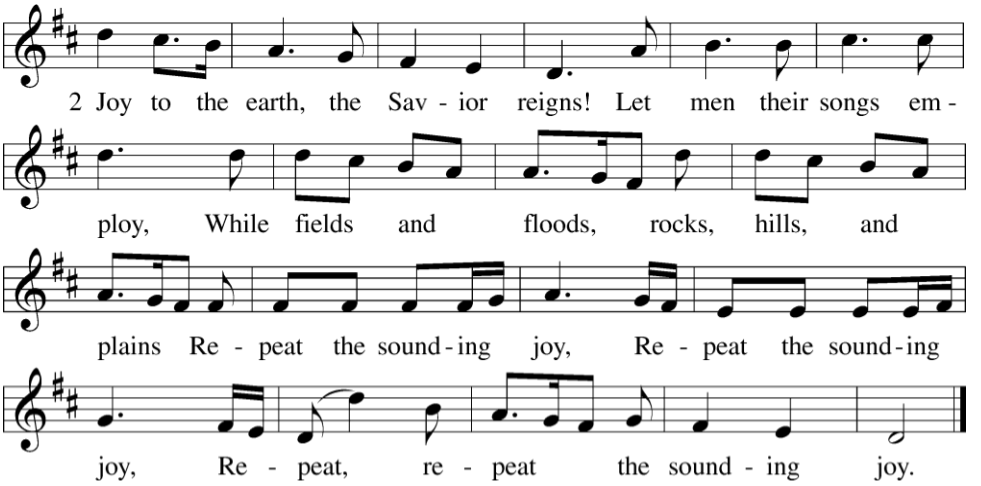
7How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
8The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
9Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10The 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

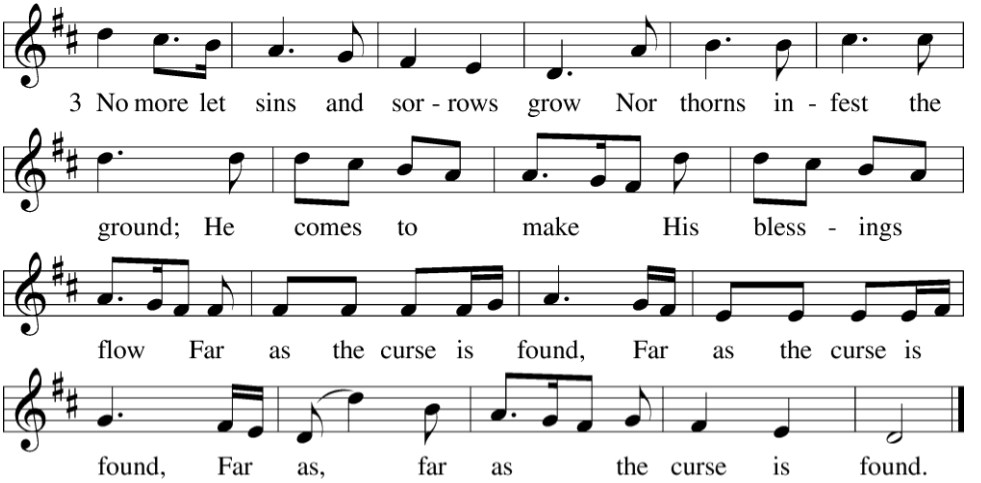
PSALM – Psalm 98 (with Isaac Watts' paraphrase)

A Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

C **The Lord has made His salvation known**
and revealed His righteousness to the nations.
He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



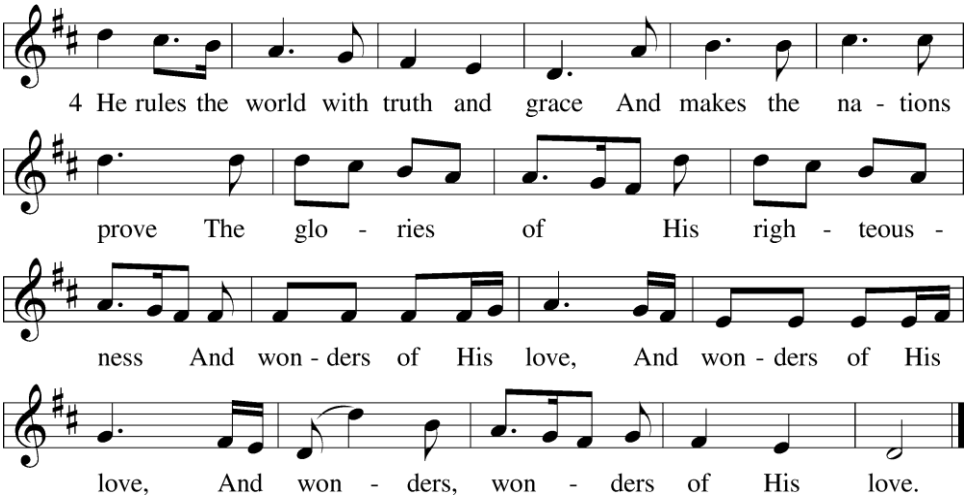
A Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

C **Make music to the Lord with the harp,**
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.



A Let the sea resound and all that is in it,
the world and all that live in it.

C **Let the rivers clap their hands,**
let the mountains sing together for joy;
let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the people with equality.

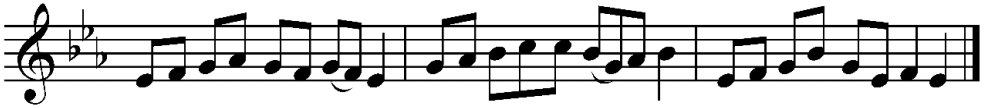


EPISTLE – Hebrews 1:1-6 – The supremacy of God's Son

[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."

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

ALLELUIA and VERSE – John 1:14
The congregation sings the Alleluias before and after the appointed verse.

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.

HOLY GOSPEL – John 1:1-14 – The Word became flesh.

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

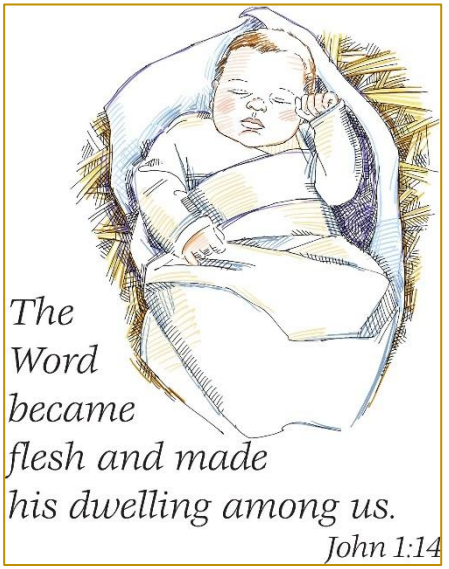
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.

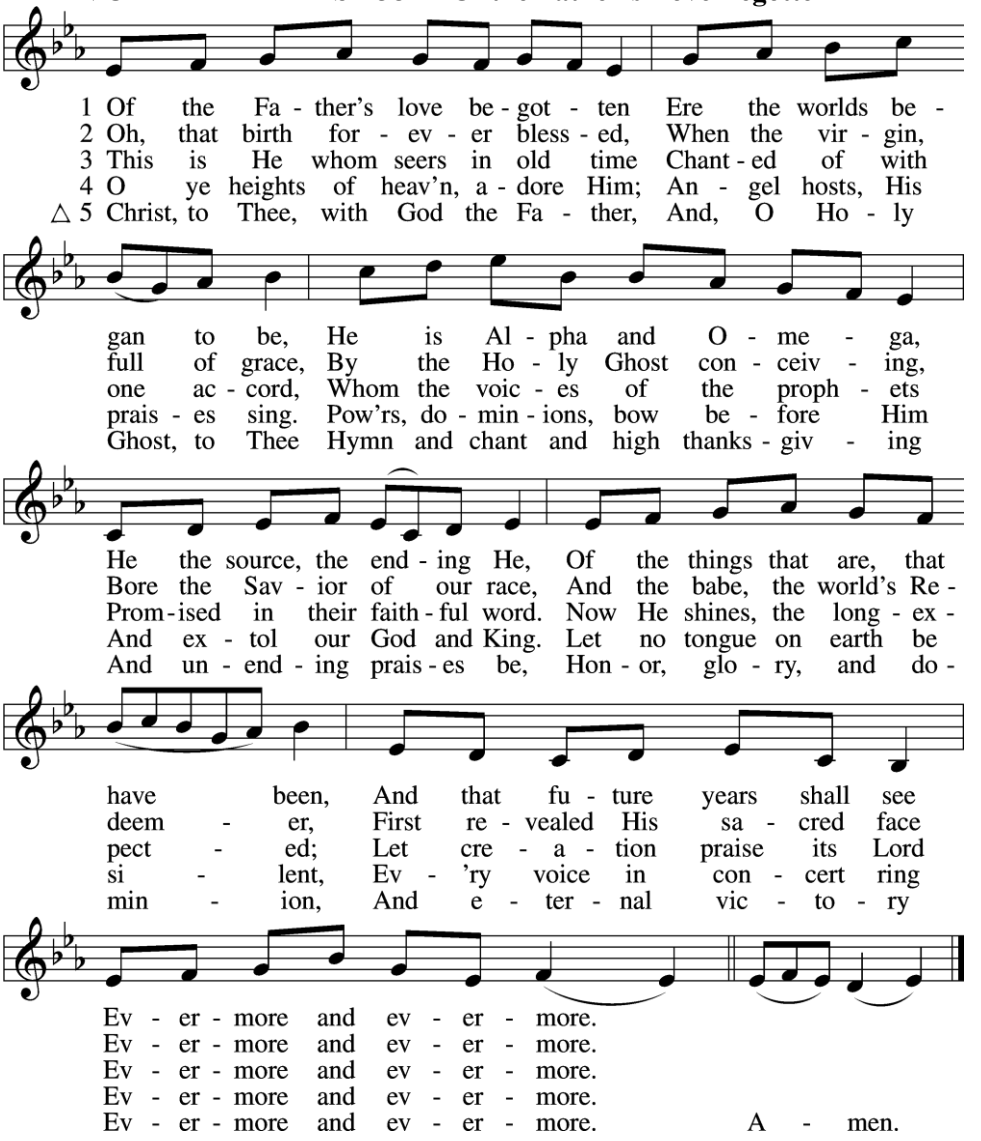
[9]The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. [10]He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. [11]He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. [12]But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the 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 – LSB 384 – Of the Father's Love Begotten

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE – *Wrapped Presents*

NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

A …one God, world without end. **C** **Amen.**

OFFERING – *O Sing of Christ* (arr. Kevin Hildebrand)

O Sing of Christ

O sing of Christ, whose birth made known the kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone so we could be restored. Upon our frail humanity God's finger chose to trace the fullness of His deity, the icon of His grace.

What Adam lost, none could reclaim, and Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came to mend what sin had marred. For when the time was full and right God sent His only Son; He came to us as life and light and our redemption won.

He came to that which was His own, but He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone, and some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be the heirs of heav'n above, born not of human ancestry but born of God in love.

Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel, to bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became one with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name
For all eternity!

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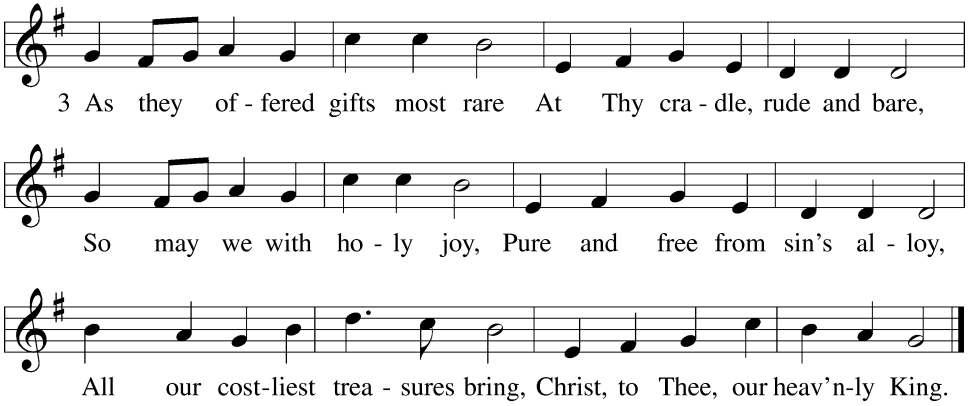
OFFERTORY – LSB 397 – As with Gladness Men of Old



✢ ✢ ✢ SACRAMENT ✢ ✢ ✢

beginning on LSB 160

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

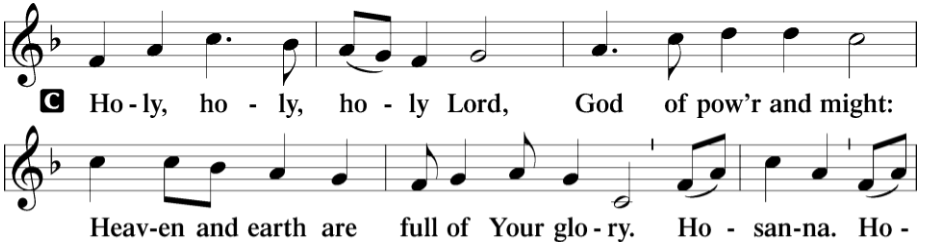
P Lift up your hearts

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

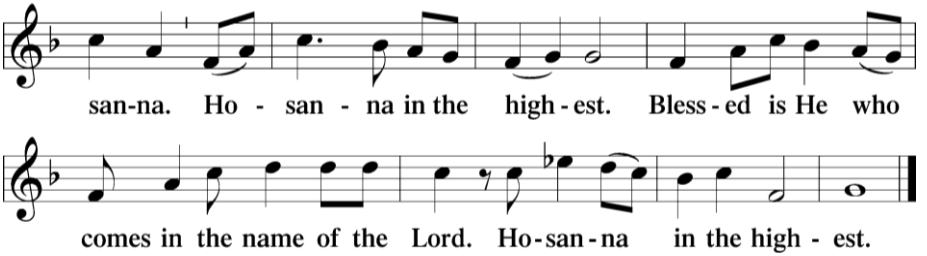
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary…evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that **in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is *truly* present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord's command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith, we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing. **If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper**, please speak with one of our pastors.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P …one God, now and forever. 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.**

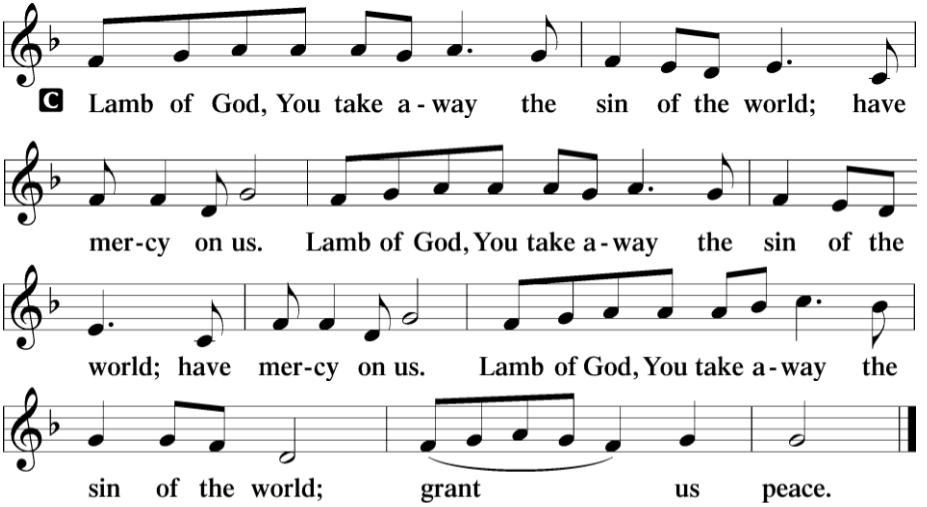
WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord – *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God – *John 1:29*



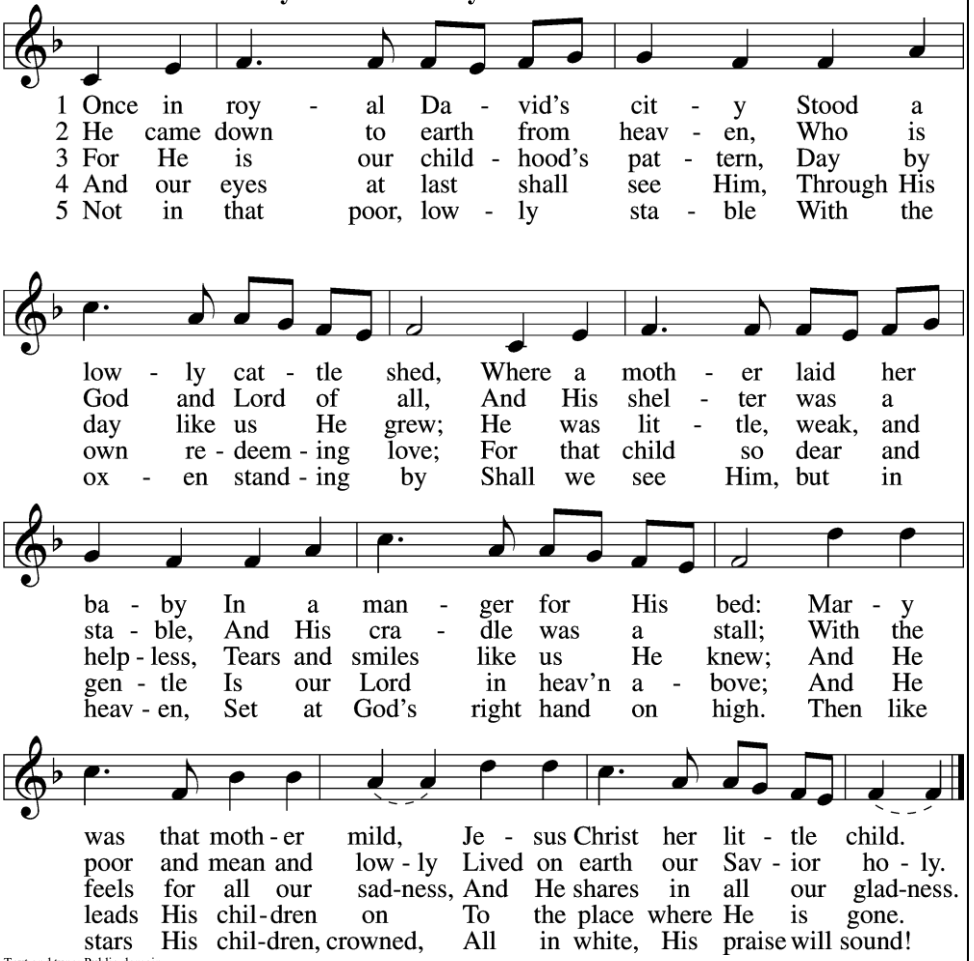
Distribution Notes:

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

Non-alcoholic grape juice, containing *a trace amount of wine***,** is available in the center of the tray.

DISTRIBUTION

Anthem – *In the Bleak Midwinter* (arr. Harold Darke)
Jonathan Elmore, tenor

LSB 376 – Once in Royal David's City

Text and tune: Public domain

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

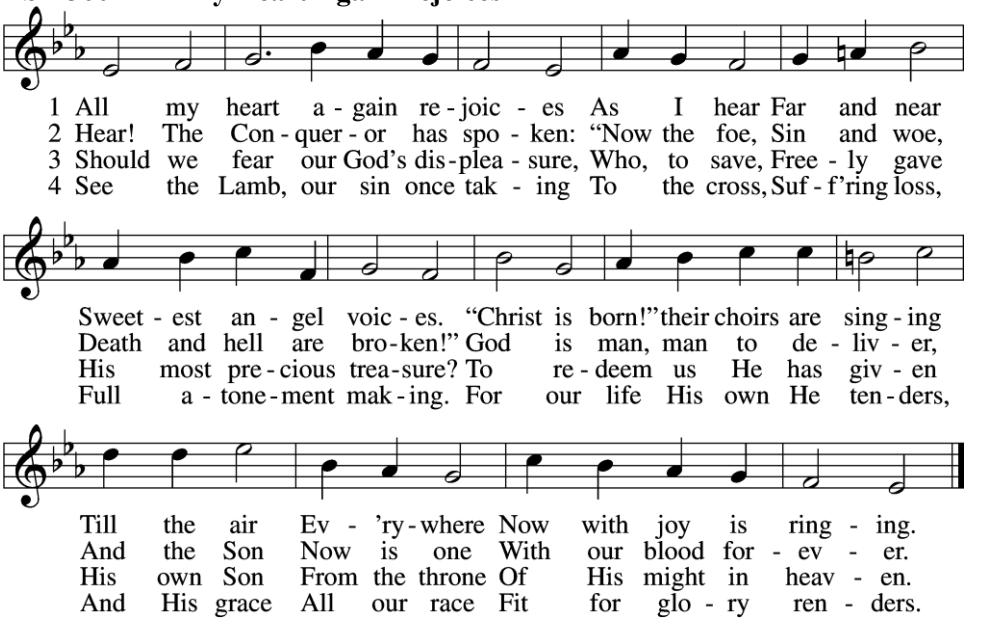
Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti, (1872)

LSB 360 – All My Heart Again Rejoices

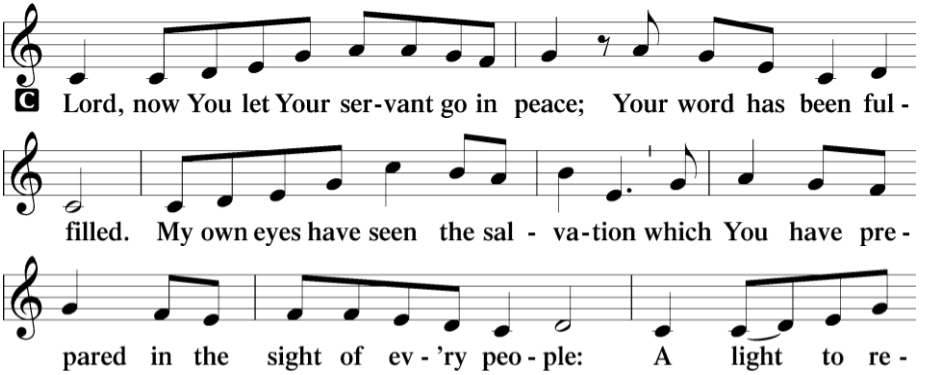


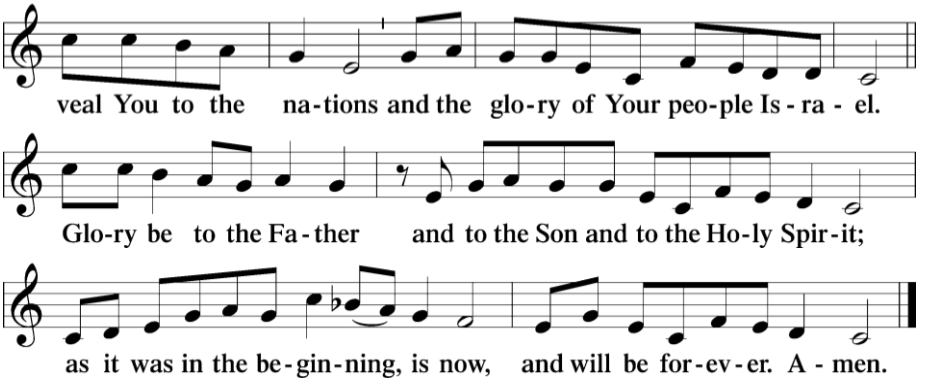
5 Softly from His lowly manger
Jesus calls
One and all,
"You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you
You are freed;
All you need
I will surely give you."

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
One and all,
Great and small,
Come with songs of gladness.
We shall live with Him forever
There on high
In that joy
Which will vanish never.

Tune and text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Nunc Dimittis – *Luke 2:29-32*





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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray… one God, now and forever.

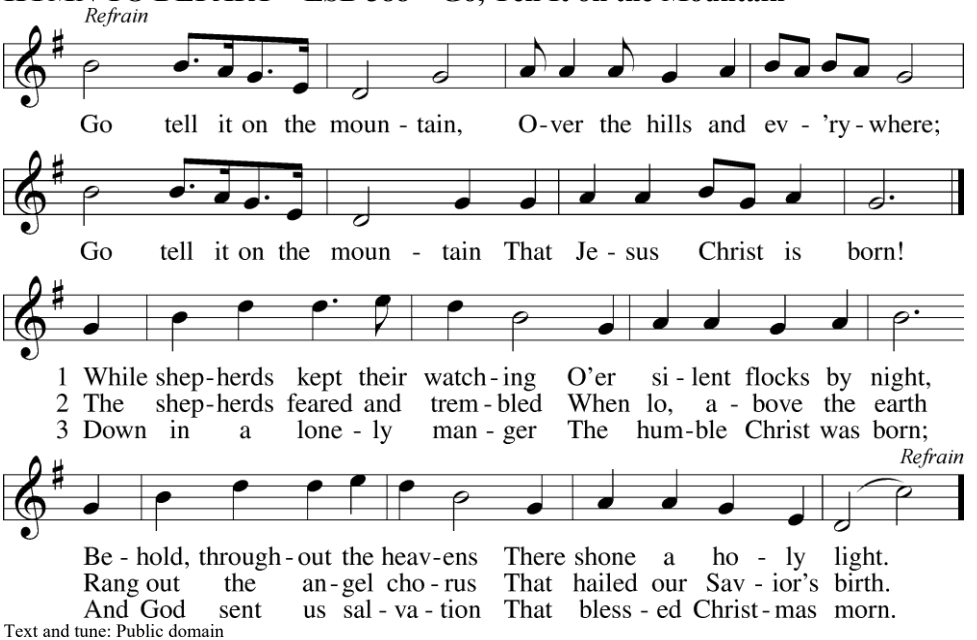
C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 388 – Go, Tell It on the Mountain



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SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *In Dulci Jubilo* (Dietrich Buxtehude)

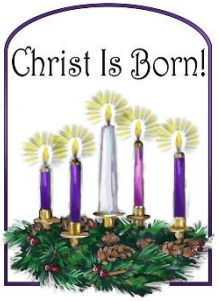
Thank you to the Senior Choir and instrumentalists this morning:

Jonathan Elmore, Meghan Faulkner, Adele Gabriel, Lauren Gaskins, Robert Gilbert, Shirin Hassan, Kelly Johnson, Trevor Jones, Carl Lenthe, Lois Paul, Gary Wohlafka, and Louise Wohlafka

Evan Huang – timpani Jonathan Schaefer – trombone

Handbells – Asher Edwards, Owen Edwards, Jonathan Schaefer, Miriam Sui, Margaret Sui, Matthew Sui

✢ ✢ ✢



Sunday, December 28
8:00am + 10:30am + 5pm
Worship

9:15am
Video – "The Art and History of the Nativity"
all ages welcome

Please note:

- 2025 offerings ***must be received*** **by December 31.**
- **Gifts to our Endowment Fund will be doubled, if *received* by December 31, 2025.**
- Check your mailbox for your **2026 Offering envelopes**, if you haven't already picked them up. If yours are missing or mislabeled, contact the church office.

From **December 30-January 11** Pastor Edwards and family will be in Belize.

Church office hours will be as follows:
December 29 & 30: 10am-Noon
New Year's Eve & New Year's Day: CLOSED
January 5-8: 10am-Noon

The office email (office@faithbtown.org) will be monitored on a *limited basis* on those days. Please use this for *non-essential* matters only.

If you have **urgent pastoral needs** please **contact Pastor Sui** at 812-671-3915.

Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 12.

Sunday, January 4 **Epiphany** (observed)
8:00 & 10:30am worship *(communion at both services)*

Sunday, January 11 **Baptism of our Lord**
8:00 & 10:30am worship *(communion at 10:30)*

Our full worship schedule will resume on Sunday, January 18.

PLEASE NOTE: **On the first two Sundays in January** Pastor Edwards will be in Belize and there will be **NO 5pm** service. Plan to worship with us at 8:00 or 10:30am on those Sundays!

Mitten Tree through January 4
Help decorate the tree in the narthex with **mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, etc** for the Salvation Army to distribute. Items for both **children and adults** will be gladly received. Thank you!

Altar Flowers
The **2026 Flower Chart** is posted on the narthex wall, near the church office.

Choose an available date to order and donate flowers in memory of someone, in celebration and thanksgiving for an anniversary, birthday, or other occasion, or in thanksgiving for God's blessings.

For guidance or more information, please **contact Altar Guild coordinator *Deanie Bently*** (812-330-0328), or the church office.

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Do you receive our weekly announcements?
Subscribe to **FaithBtown News** for weekly announcements and updates.