

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2025, 4:30 pm & 11:00 p.m.



Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

"Celebrating and sharing God's Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others"

Bold type indicates Congregational responses

** Congregation please stand as you are able*

Welcome to Lord of Love! We are the body of Christ, and we are not whole without you.

Visitors: We're so glad you're here, and we'd love the opportunity to connect with you! Text WELCOME to 402-493-2946 so we can follow up with you.

Nursery: The nursery (just off the Narthex) is open during the 4:30pm worship. Please know that children are always welcome in the Sanctuary for worship. Quiet toy bags are available from the ushers.

Offering: An offering plate is at the back of the Sanctuary, and gifts may be placed there. Children may put their offering in the noise jar during the offering song.

Communion: Everyone is welcome at communion. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking a communion server. In the communion trays, the wine is red and grape juice is white.

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request, you can text PRAY to 402-493-2946.

Christmas Eve Prelude

*Greeting

P: 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.

*Call to Worship

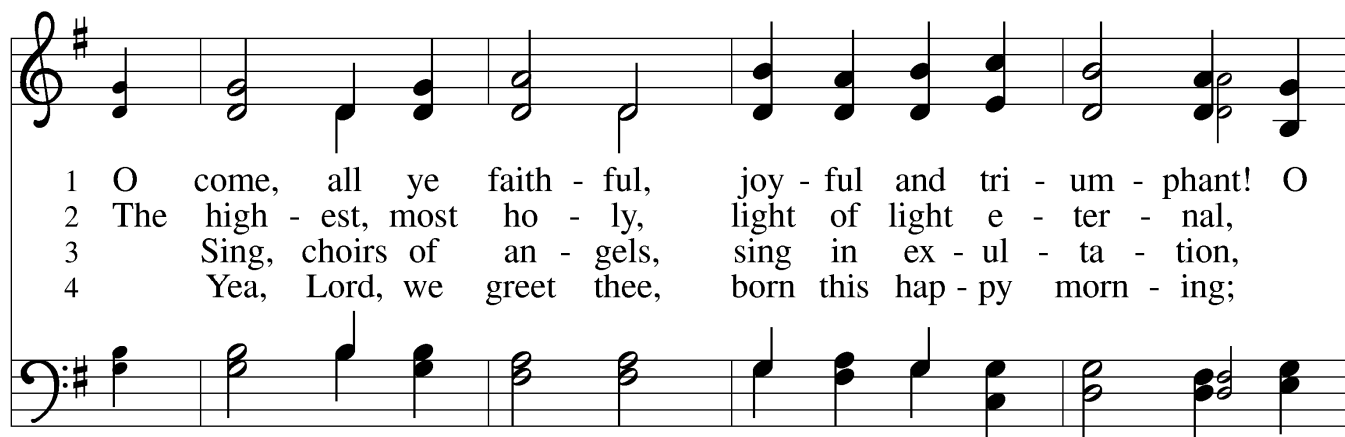
P: We gather this night to share good news and tidings of great joy!

For today, in the town of Bethlehem, a Savior has been born to us.

He is Christ the Lord! With the angels, let us sing our praises.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all the earth.

***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!

****Prayer of the Day***

L: 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 on 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.

Please be seated.

4:30 pm Special Music “The Little Drummer Boy” Arr. Valeri W. Stephenson

11:00 pm Choir Anthem “The Angels Carol” John Rutter

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

L: 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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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. 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW 270

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!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing". It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, with three verses of the hymn. The first verse is "Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glorry to the new-born king;'", the second is "Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,", and the third is "Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!".

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 you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

***Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary; to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields; keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

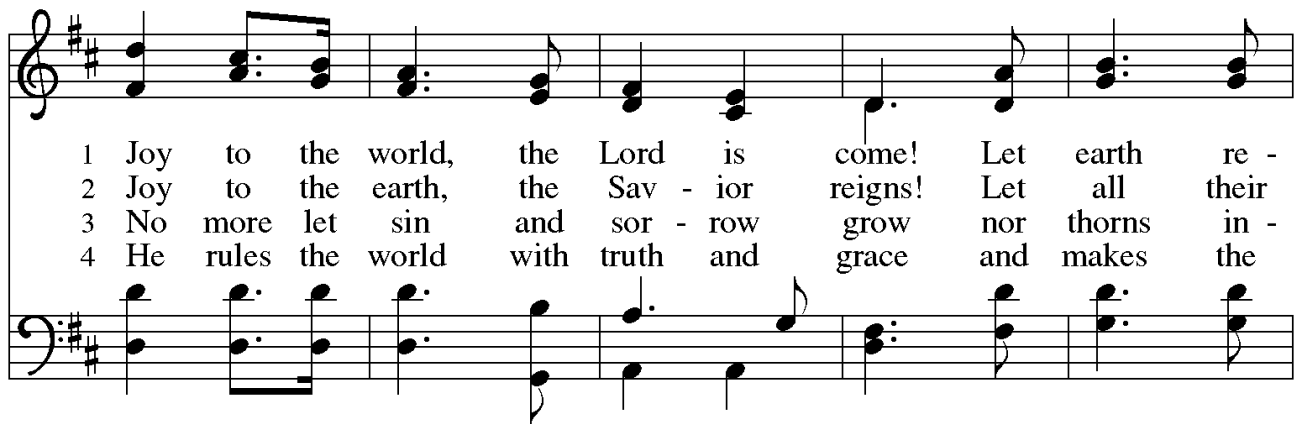
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

4:30 pm Children's Sermon..... Pr. Becky Sells

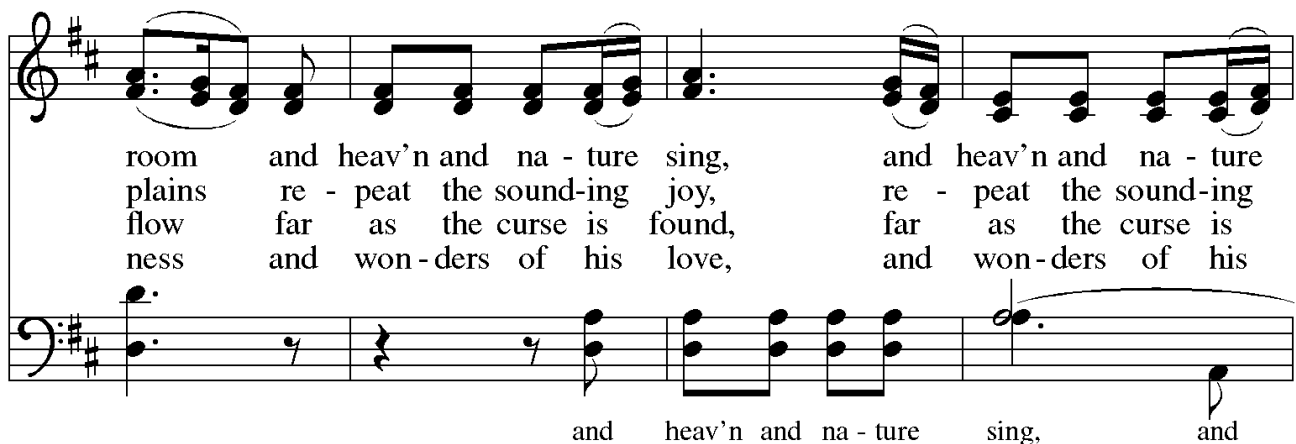
Christmas Sermon..... Pr. Becky Sells



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions 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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and



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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

***Prayers of Intercession**

L: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. 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, especially where wars are raging. 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 and those on our prayer list, and the names of those we lift up to you in our hearts now... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain food, housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for those seeking safety and care this night. 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. 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.

Please be seated.

4:30 pm Special Music "O Holy Night"Adolphe Adam

11:00 pm Choir Anthem: "The Wexford Carol"..... Arr. Howard Helvey

***Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

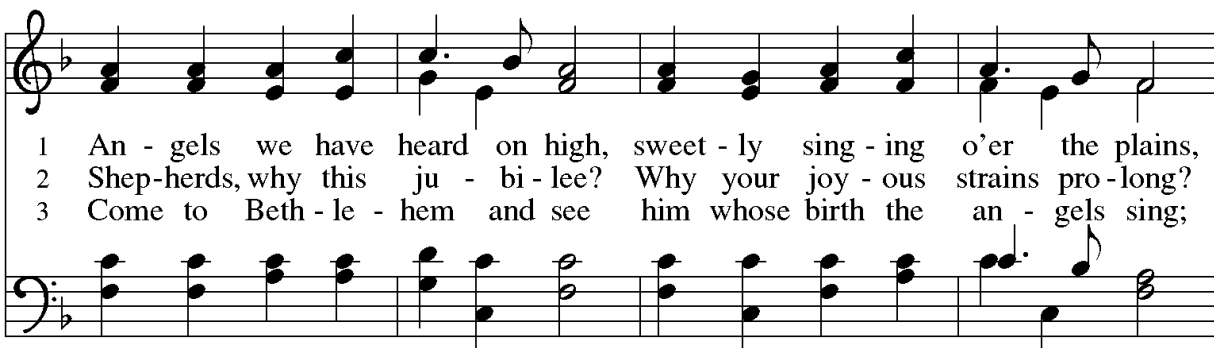
And also with you.

Please share signs of peace with one another.

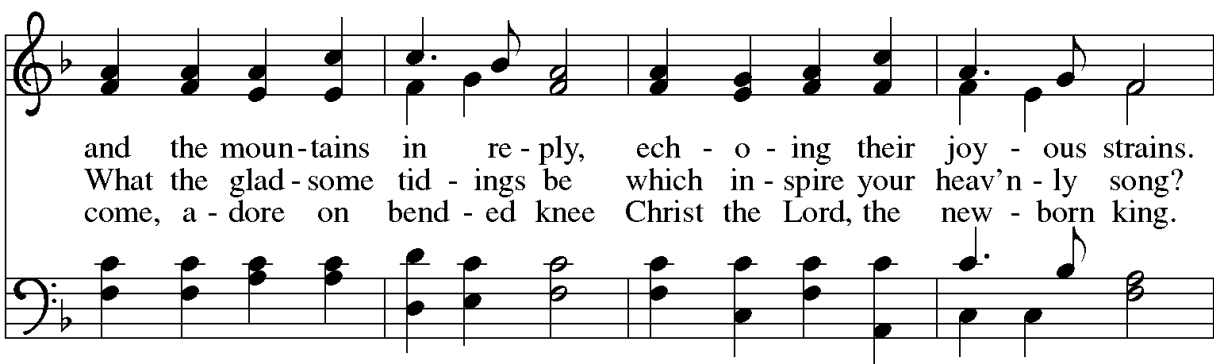
Offering

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or may be given electronically at www.lord-of-love.org. Our special offering tonight will be split 50/50 between Food Bank for the Heartland and Lutheran World Relief.

Offertory Hymn: "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;

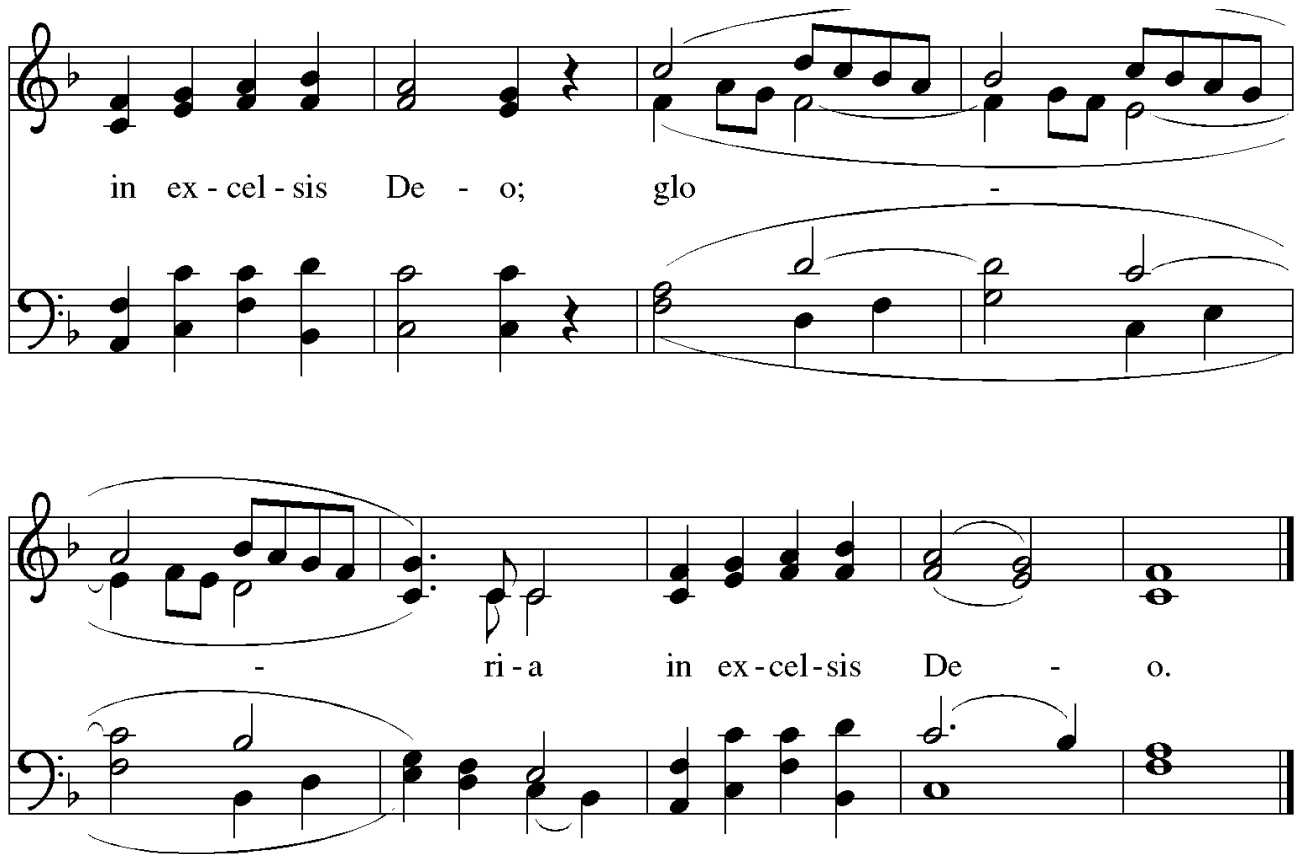


and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain

Glo - ri - a



****Offertory Prayer***

P: Let us pray.

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

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.

****The Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. In ancient times God also led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The priests of old also kept a perpetual fire burning in the Temple to remind us that God is a light who cannot be extinguished.

Finally Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory shining in our world, full of grace and truth. Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. This same light has commanded us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it. With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light:

*Holy, Holy, Holy



P: 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.

***The Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*Communion Invitation

P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

Please be seated.

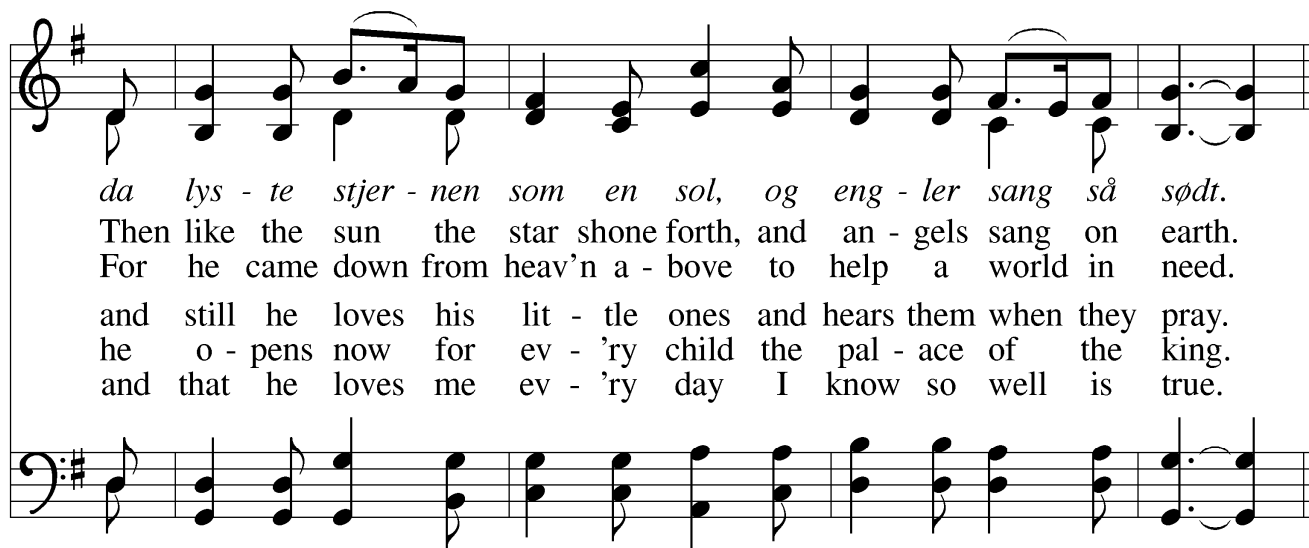
Distribution of Holy Communion

"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" ELW 271



The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;
1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959
Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863
Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



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.



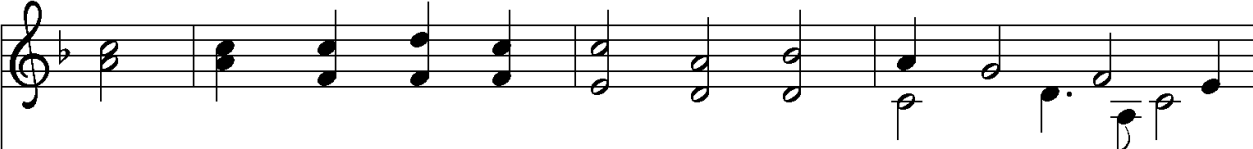
This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



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!



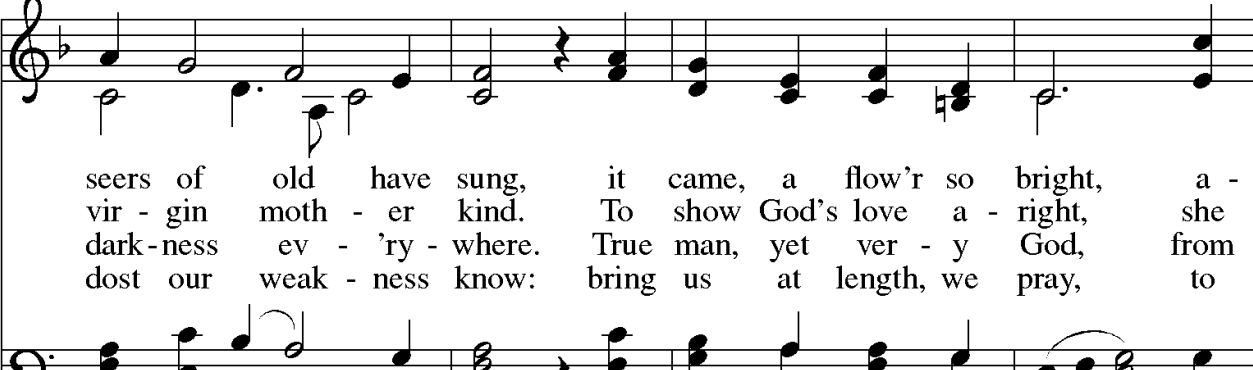
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"..... ELW 272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had 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
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

****Post-Communion Prayer***

P: Incarnate God, you are present with 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.

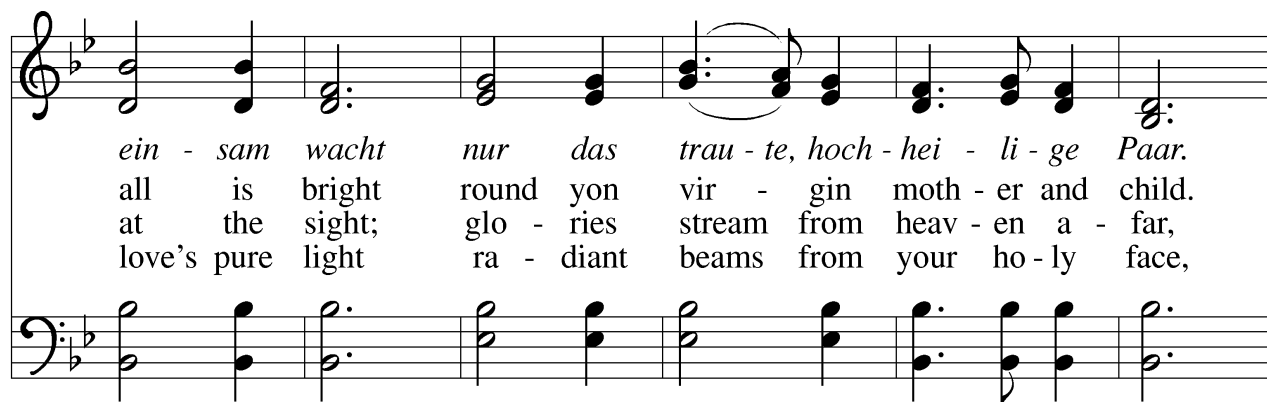
****Benediction***

P: The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

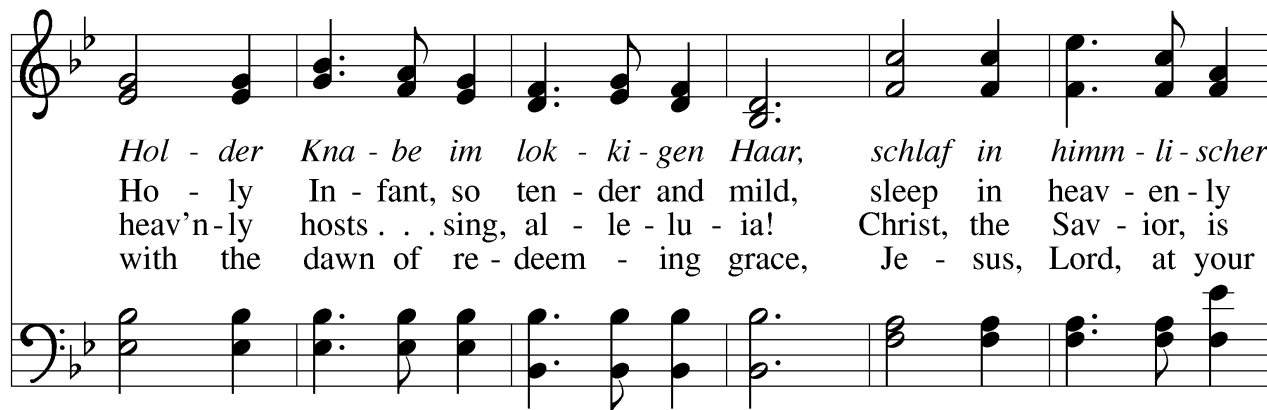
***Sending Song: "Silent Night, Holy Night!"** ELW 281



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,



Hol - der 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***

L: Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace and joy, and share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

Candles are extinguished.

Postlude

Serving Today:

Pastor Becky Sells
Liturgist Susan Senff 4:30 pm; Karen Armitage 11:00 pm
Organist Carol Novak
Technical Directors Chris Rich, Renae Rich
Sound/Bell Choir/Chancel Choir Director Jon Novak
Nursery Attendant 4:30 pm Lorelei Rich
Ushers 4:30 pm Chad, Gracie & Jacob Christensen, Brian & Deb Lund
Ushers 11:00 pm Craig Pennell, Paul Christenson, Kenn Garder
Altar Care Susan Senff 4:30 pm; Pat Wineinger 11:00 pm
Soloist (4:30 pm) Paul Hindemith
Bell Quartet (4:30pm): Karen Armitage, Carol Novak, Jon Novak, and Renae Rich
Lord of Love Brass (11:00 pm): Trumpet: Chris Ramsay, Rex Quadhamer; Tuba: Josh Lund;
F Horn: Christi Bierman; Trombone: Brian Lund;

Special thanks to all who shared their musical gifts with us this Christmas Eve!

Everlasting Light Liturgy

Pr. David Eck. Used by permission.

© 2011 David Eck, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Fairview, NC

Liturgical text and music from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24833.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Hymns reprinted by permission under CCLI License #3067941 and One License No. A-723976. All rights reserved.



WE GIVE THANKS TO THOSE WHO PROVIDED POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Doug & Cathy Aden in honor of their family

Paul Barnett in memory of Jackie Barnett, in honor of Pastor Becky's ministry and in honor of Mary Lou's dedication and kindness

Jesse & Pat Brewer in memory of our parents and loved ones

Chad & Ruth Christensen in memory of Emily Christensen

Paul Christenson, Carissa, Josh & Payton Combes in memory of Deb Christenson

Kathy Christiansen in memory of Alvin, Ann and Sharon Christiansen

Joe & Jackie Combes in honor of Josh, Carissa and Payton and in memory of Jason and our parents

David & Judy Egr in honor of Richard & Florence Egr and in memory of CH & Klara Strand

Paula Foster in memory of Dale Foster, Emily Christensen

David & Jill Hild in honor of Maxine Hild and in memory of Ralph Hild

Amber Huggenberger in memory of Patrick Huggenberger

Krause – Kragnes family in memory of Gary's mom, Jeane

Dave & Susan Lueders in memory of family

Todd & Lisa Meyer in honor of our family

Karen (Erickson) Mullen in memory of Gehard, Inez and Gordon Erickson

Peg & Paul Murphy in memory of Janet & Ed Guthrie and Ethel & Milford Murphy

Harry Naasz in memory of Jim Amundson, Jr.

The Novak and Rich families in memory of our mothers and grandmothers

Special Christmas Offerings

The Christmas offerings will be split 50/50 between Food Bank for the Heartland and Lutheran World Relief.