

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2014

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

[LSB 367]

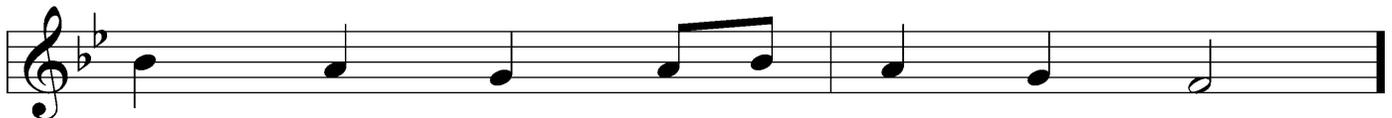
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1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



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



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:14

Pastor: For to us a child is born,

People: **to us a son is given;**

Pastor: And His name shall be called

People: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,**

Pastor: Everlasting Father,

People: **Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: “Glory to God in the highest,

People: **and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

CONFESSIOAL HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” [LSB 361]



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
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!

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Pastor: Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

People: We confess to You that we are sinful by nature and by choice. We have broken the peace of Your good creation and transgressed the boundaries You have established for Your creatures. We can only be brought back to You by the life, death, and resurrection of Your incarnate Son, the God-man, Jesus. For His sake, we ask for Your mercy and forgiveness and for the filling of the Holy Spirit that we may follow Jesus all our days.

Pastor: In the baby Jesus born in Bethlehem, the almighty Creator God has become human to bring humanity into a relationship of love with Himself, and for the sake of Jesus forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.



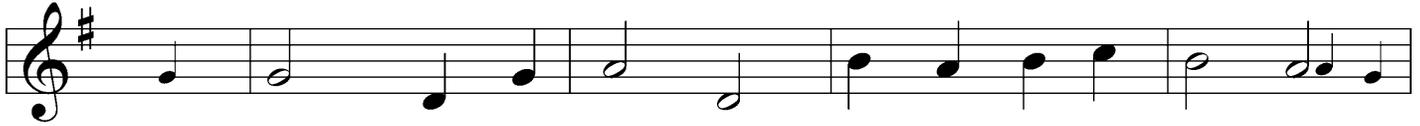
"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:10b-11

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

[LSB 379]



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!

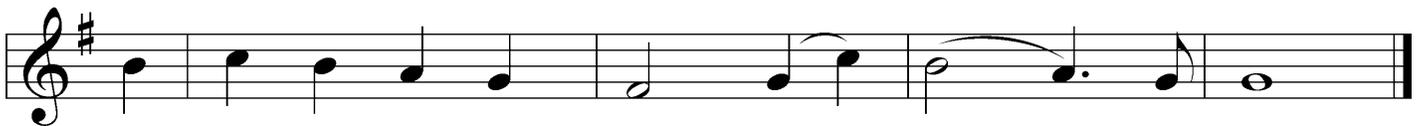


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



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



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

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Father of all, on this silent, holy night You have given to all people the gift of infinite worth, Your only-begotten Son, Jesus. Grant that He who was heralded by angels and welcomed by shepherds may be born in our hearts by faith, that we may grow in Your grace following Him with all humility; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2–7*

(The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.)

² ^[a] The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon ^[b] his shoulder,

and his name shall be called^[c]

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace

there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

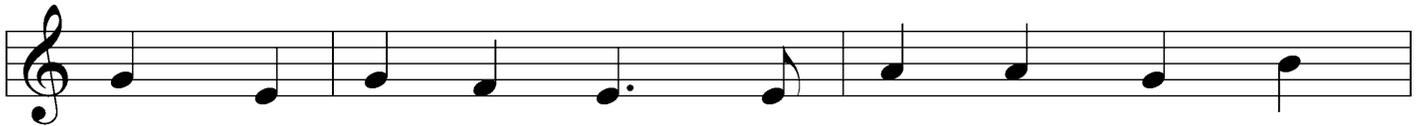
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” [vs 1-4 LSB 358]



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 “This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
4 “He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - ’ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

EPISTLE *Titus 2:11–14*

(We await our blessed hope, the glory of our great God.)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” [vs 12-15, LSB 358]

- 12 And so it pleases You to see
 This simple truth revealed to me:
 That worldly honor, wealth, and might
 Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
 A quiet chamber set apart
 For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;
 My lips no more can silence keep.
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
 That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav’n,
 Who unto us His Son has giv’n!
 While angels sing with pious mirth
 A glad new year to all the earth.

HOLY GOSPEL*Luke 2:1–20)**(The birth of Jesus)*

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,^[b] who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”^[c]

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY **“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!



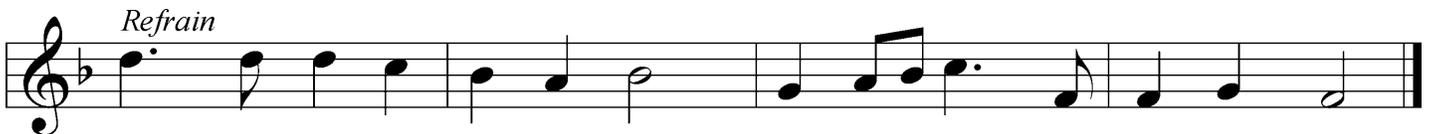
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



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.



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

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SERMON

“God’s Gift For You”

Luke 2:1-20

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“What Child Is This”

[LSB 370]



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
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!

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NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth 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.

OFFERING TO THE LORD'S WORK IS GATHERED

(Members and guests, please fill out yellow attendance cards, found on back of pews, and place them in offering plate as the offering is gathered.)

Special Music by Joan Stocker and Kayla Peterson

OFFERTORY

Special Music by Peace Women's Choir - "Away in a Manger"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: On this holy night on which Christ was born, let us pray to the Lord on behalf of His people and for all people in Jesus' name.

Dear Father, in Jesus, You have given us a gift whose worth is beyond all telling. Help us in the busyness of this holiday season to not overlook or pass Him by, but rather help us to pause and kneel quietly before His manger and discover true joy through beholding Your Son as Christ our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

[vs 1, LSB 387]



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

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Pastor: Dear Father, for all who face this Christmas overwhelmed by loss, pain, suffering, hunger, or loneliness, we ask Your kindness and the presence of Your Holy Spirit. In beholding Jesus as the light of the world, ignite the spark of hope in the hearts of all who are in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

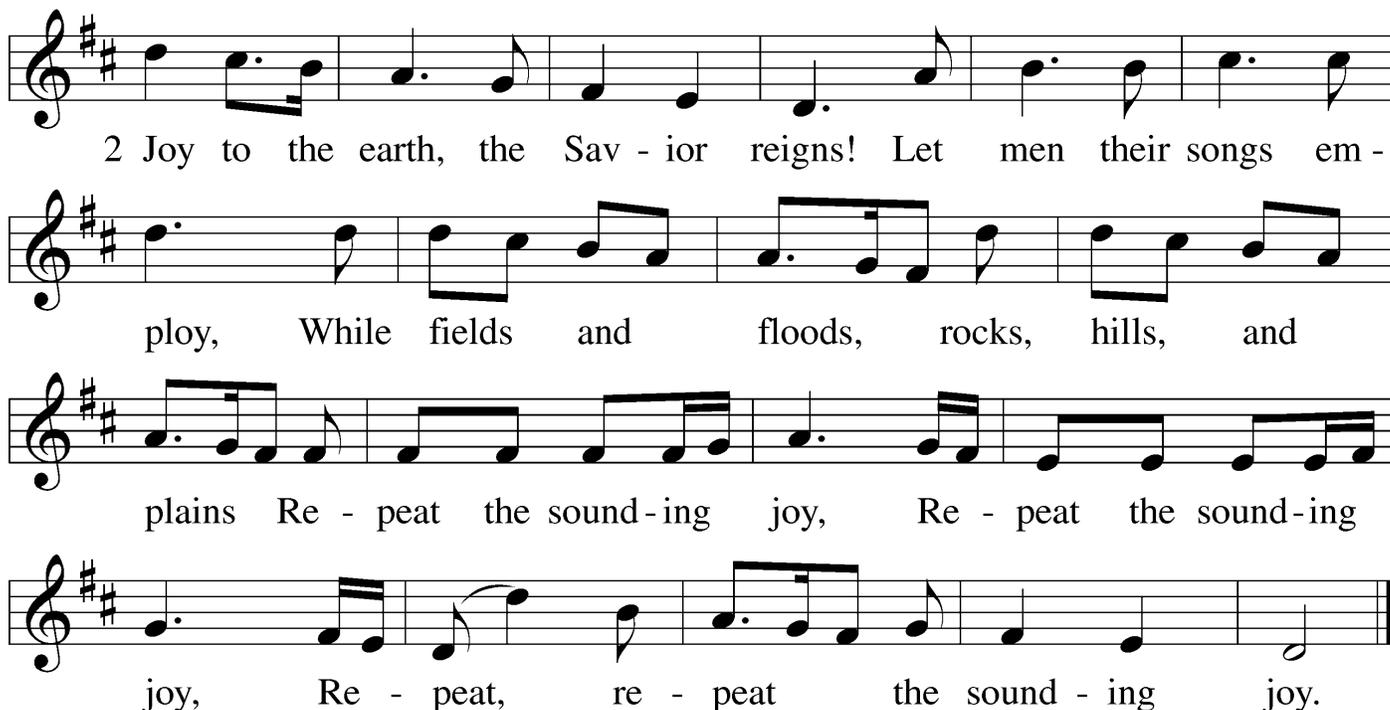
Pastor: Dear Father, for Your people around the world who gather this night in remembrance of Your gift for us in Jesus, we pray Your blessing and peace. May all who proclaim the good news of Jesus this Christmas do so with great joy that becomes infectious within all who hear Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

[vs 2, LSB 387]



2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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Pastor: Dear Father, wherever the good news of the Savior’s birth is repressed and those who tell it are persecuted, we ask You to turn the hearts of those responsible, including people in positions of civil authority. Grant to all earthly leaders humble receptivity and willingness to carry out Your will for the well-being of all citizens. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

[vs 3&4, LSB 387]

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
 trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The Pastor takes the light from the Christ candle and gives to the acolytes. They pass the light on to the congregation. Tip only the unlighted candle. Do not tip the lighted candle to avoid dripping the wax! (Hold the candles straight up and the wax will not drip.)



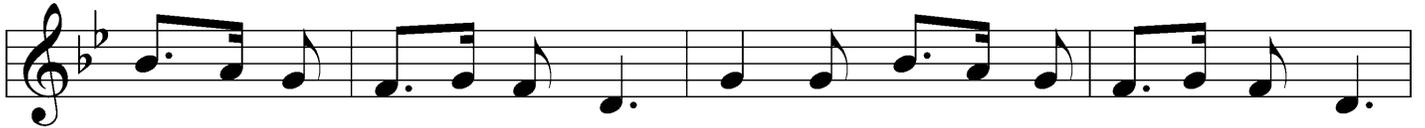
HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

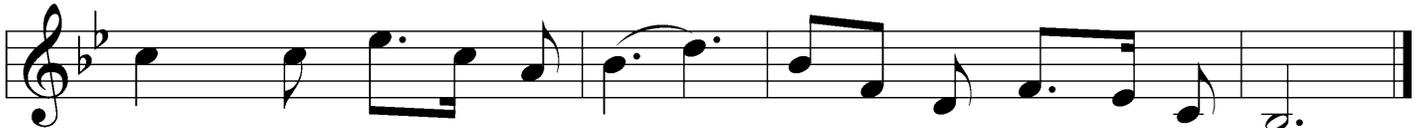
[LSB 363]



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

**People: 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.**



Christ the Savior is Born!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

CLOSING 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.

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