



We are a Christian community called to **worship** and sent to **serve**,  
welcoming all to **walk** with Christ and **grow** in faith.

### FLAMES OF THE FAITHFUL

Advent 2022

In this fourth Flames for the Faithful service, we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath, the Angels' Candle, and remind ourselves that when Jesus was born all the earth was filled with his glory and all our lives are filled with that precious Light from above. Today our message will be given by the Sunday School children sharing the Christmas story.

### WELCOME & INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**In darkness enshrouded, the world waits for light  
To shatter the shadowy darkness of night.  
To greenery circled, the faithful draw near  
And longingly listen, God's message to hear.**

- P** God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in your hearts,  
**C** to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, our Lord.  
**P** The angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them.  
**C** We beheld the glory of the Word made flesh, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.  
**P** And with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host praising God.

**As wick touches wick now four flames burn so bright  
As angels in glory shone forth on that night.  
May we shine the precious good news of this birth  
To ev'ry dark, shadowy corner of earth.**

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.  
**C** For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.  
**P** But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.  
**C** Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.  
**P** When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

**Oh, keep us, Lord Jesus, in your mighty care  
As for your arrival your people prepare.  
The flames for the faithful, Lord, let them burn bright,  
That hearts of all people in faith may ignite.**

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P** If we say we have we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** God invites us to come into His presence and worship Him with humble and contrite hearts. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another:  
**C** Most merciful God, we confess we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with Your abiding presence. By the power of Your Spirit, direct our lives to expressions of repentant joy. Bless our devotion and our prayers, and lead us in ways of faithfulness as we await Your final coming in glory; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 6:1–8*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

<sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost;

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

<sup>8</sup>And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:8–20*

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

<sup>15</sup>When 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.”

<sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## NICENE CREED

**C** 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.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** The wreath itself is wreathed in flame. Four bright candles glow, showing us the way to the Christ Child's bed—a humble manger in tiny Bethlehem. As angels glowed with the bright light of heaven's love, so too we bask in God's love this day—God's love made manifest in Jesus Christ, God's Son. Let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord have mercy.**
- P** Enlighten your Church, we pray, O God, that it might glow with your bright love throughout this earth. Unite us in love, so that all people will know that love is the hallmark of your reign. Make all our divisions cease. And move your people to acts of love and justice. Let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord have mercy.**
- P** Bring light to this darkened sphere, O God, that all nations may come to the Light of Christ. Make justice prevail. Reign over your earth at our Prince of Peace. Remove all tyrants from their seats of power. Give us good and humble leaders. Guide us in paths of wisdom. Let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord have mercy.**
- P** To the needy, to the lost, to the lonely and grieving, shed your bright and lovely light, O God. Feed the hungry. Fill the starving. Make clear water a regular reality for all people. Give hope to the hopeless and love to the loveless. Bid all who are wanting to look in the manger to find your fullness there. Let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord have mercy.**
- P** Shine, O Father, shine upon the people gathered in this place. Radiate your love and peace into our hearts. Make our leaders shining examples of your love. Then we will glow with holy joy. Then we will share the glory of the Lord with everyone we meet. Let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord have mercy.**
- P** All our prayers we place in the manger, O God, anxious to see your promises fulfilled—at Christmastime, and into all eternity. In the name of Christ, our Light, we pray.
- C** **Amen.**

## OFFERING

*Christmas Lullaby – I Will Lead You Home*

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

**TO OUR VISITORS:** The **Lord's Supper** is celebrated at St. John in the confession that not only bread and wine, but Jesus Christ's very body and blood are given to us to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our faith in Him and our union (*communion*) with one another. Our Lord invites to His table all those who believe His words, repent of all sin, and set aside all refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. *If this is your first time at St John or have not been instructed about the Lord's Supper, we ask that you speak to the Pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation has fulfilled the hope of the prophets and of Your people for countless generations. We thank You for calling us to be Your people in this time and place and for inviting us to Your holy Table. Joined together in the name of our Lord and in the communion of saints, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- C** **Amen.**

## 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.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PEACE OF THE LORD - PAX DOMINI**

John 20:19

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN: "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"**

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven Text and tune: Public domain

**DISTRIBUTION**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray. Thank You, Lord, for the peace that comes to us through Christ's body and blood. Help us leave this Table so filled with Your peace that it overflows to our homes, our church, and our community; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wow!

A Nativity Play for Kids by Gwynne Watkins

## “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

**Children** *O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.*

**Refrain:** *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*



## CONGREGATION: “ O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

LSB 357

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us

Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y  
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y

pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

## SKIT

## “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

LSB 379

**Children:** *O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels:*

**Refrain:** *O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**CONGREGATION: “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”**

LSB 379

2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!

Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:

*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!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 Text and tune: Public domain

**SKIT**

**CHILDREN: “AWAY IN A MANGER”**

LSB 364

- 1 *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*
- 2 *The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*
- 3 *Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.*



Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children’s Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt. Text: Public domain

**SKIT**

**“HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”**

LSB 380

- Children:** *Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*
- Refrain:** *Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

CONGREGATION: "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

LSB 380



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!



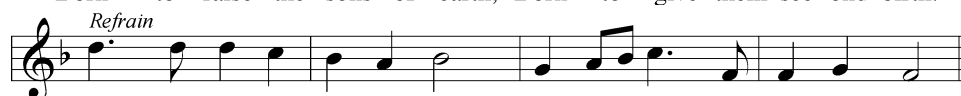
Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



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,



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!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47 Text and tune: Public domain

SKIT

At the end of the skit...

Narrator: So the angel appeared in Wheatfield to St. John Lutheran Church

Angel: Hail, St. John! God is with you!

**Wow! What does this mean?**

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

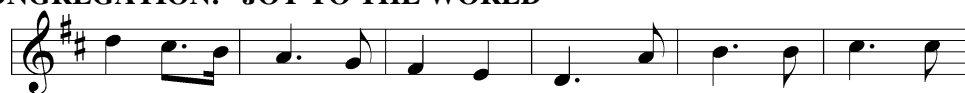
LSB 387

**Children:** *Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*



## CONGREGATION: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

LSB 387



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



ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



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



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

## BENEDICTION

- P** 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

---

**Cast:**      **Angels:**      Camryn Fontana, Mackenzie Harder, Ava Schultz, Lucy Schultz, Adelaide Willis  
**Narrator:**      Charles Weir  
**Mary:**      Charlotte Willis  
**Joseph:**      Cody Fontana  
**Shepherds:**      Makayla Harder Ellanora Lindhurst, Samuel Rogers

## Adults Leaders

Lynn Willis, Lorrie Weir, Doreen Sutherland, Cheryl Oliver, Liz Schultz

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.