ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE



December 24, 2021 4:00 p.m.



PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Stand as you are able.

GATHERING CAROL ELW 283

0 Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1 & 2)



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

GREETING

Pastor The Savior of the world is born!

All To us the Son is given! Alleluia!

- P The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.
- All And also with you.



PRAYER OF THE DAY P 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 in 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.

All Amen.

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Blessing the Nativity



+WORD+

FIRST READING Isat

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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.

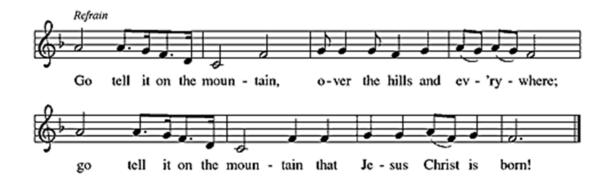
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able for the reading of the Christmas Gospel.

We sing to welcome the good news.



Go Tell It on the Mountain

GOSPEL: Luke: 2:1-14 [15-20]

P The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

All 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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.



Be seated.

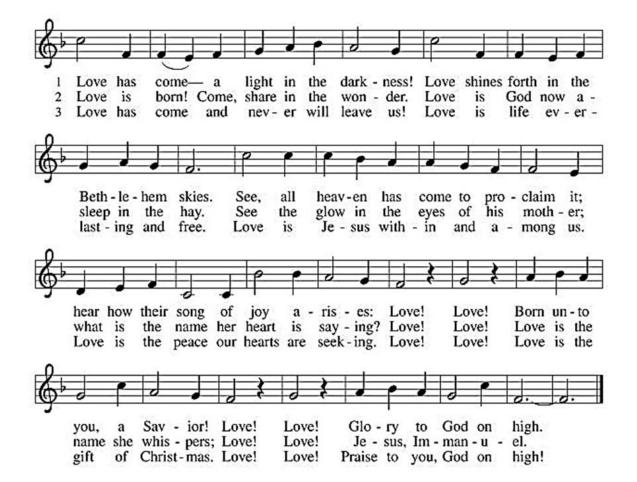
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Stand as you are able.

CAROL OF THANKSGIVING

ELW 292

Love Has Come



After each prayer:

P Merciful God,

All receive our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

All Amen.



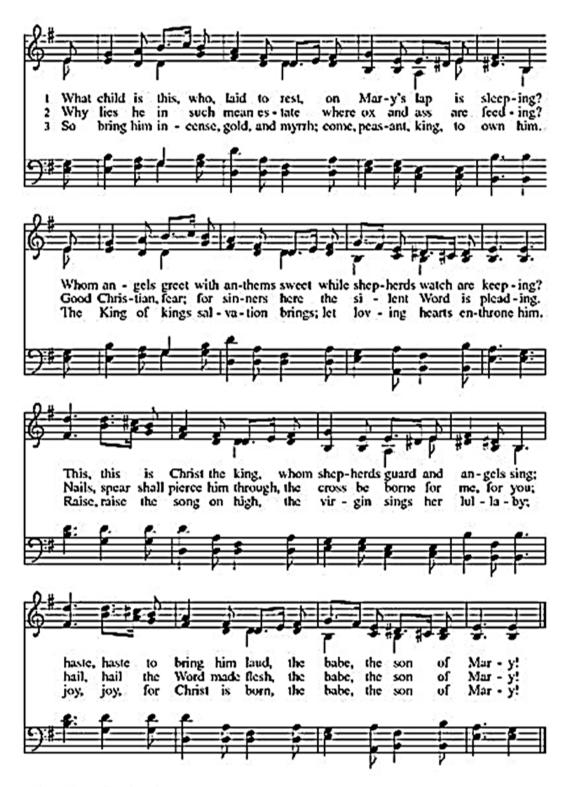
OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING CAROL

ELW 296

What Child Is This (vs. 1 & 3)



Text: William C. Dis. 1837-1898 Mask: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th com.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

р	The Lord be with you.
A11	And also with you.
Р	Lift up your hearts.
All	We lift them to the Lord.
р	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God, whom we can not see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

CAROL OF PRAISE ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1 & 3)



Test Charles Wedey, 1203-1708, alt Music: MENDELSBOHN, Folls Mead-basin, 1894–1647; art. William H. Chanolings, 1831–1915

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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:
- All 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both the common cup (wine) and a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, take one from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available--simply tell the pastor.

COMMUNION CAROL ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1, 2, & 4)



As we return to our places, the light of Christ will spread through the church, each person lighting the candle of his or her neighbor.

Stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

All Amen.



+SENDING+

THE BLESSING

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

Please extinguish your candles.

CAROL OF JOY ELW 267

Joy to the World (vs. 1, 2 & 4)



P Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

All Thanks be to God!

Serving tonight:

Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Presiding Katharine Gossman, Music Director Karl Barton, Instrumentalist Rita Ford, Assisting Minister Caroline Collins, Cup Minister Judi Duffy, Lector Judi Duffy and Linda Eshleman, Altar Guild

