

# CHRISTMAS VIGIL

Sunday, December 24, 2023  
11:00 PM

## PRELUDE

Paraphrase on Christmas Themes

by Romualds Jermaks

## + Gathering +

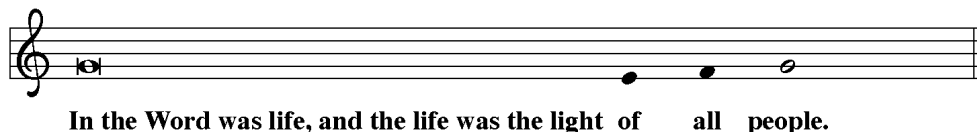
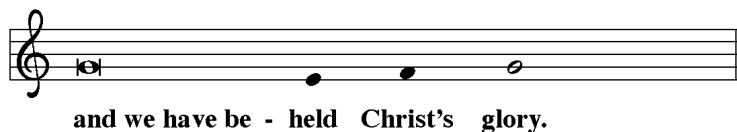
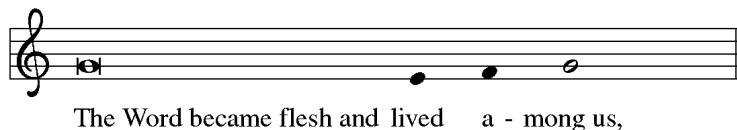
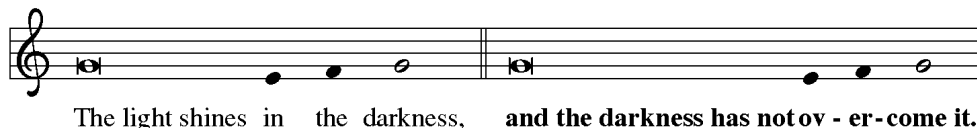
## RINGING OF THE BELL

*At the sound of the bell, the congregation is invited to rise as you are able and face the narthex.*

## WELCOME

We gather this night to celebrate the light that shines in the darkness for we hold vigil in anticipation of the nativity of our Lord. In a few moments we will dim the lights and you will be invited to turn and face the processional into the Church. The paschal candle will pause three times on its way into the nave.

## OPENING DIALOGUE AND CANDLE PROCESSION





- 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 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, 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 the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time 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 now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

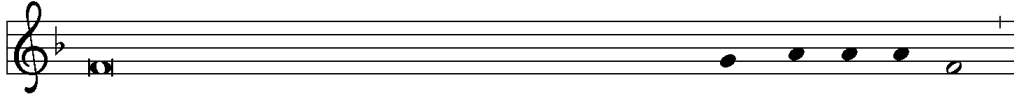


The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

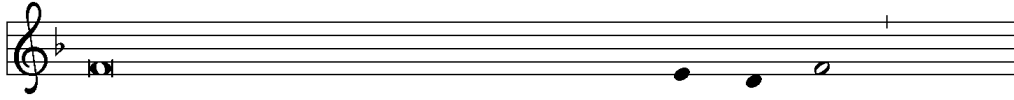
Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

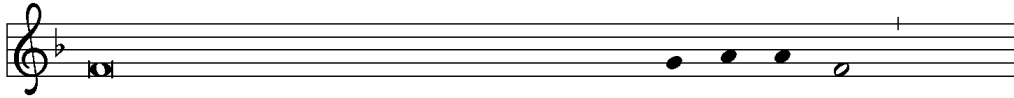
## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT



We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light in - to being,



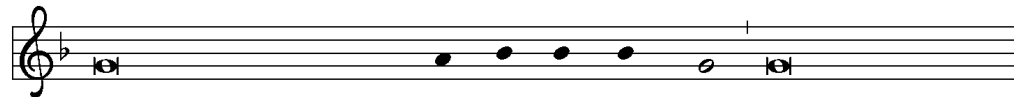
and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day.



In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night



you led your peo - ple in - to freedom.



Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be



a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are mer-ci - ful,



and you love your whole cre-a-tion, and with all your crea-tures we give you glory,



through your Son Je - sus Christ, in the unity of the Ho - ly Spirit,



now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**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. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## + Word +

## READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

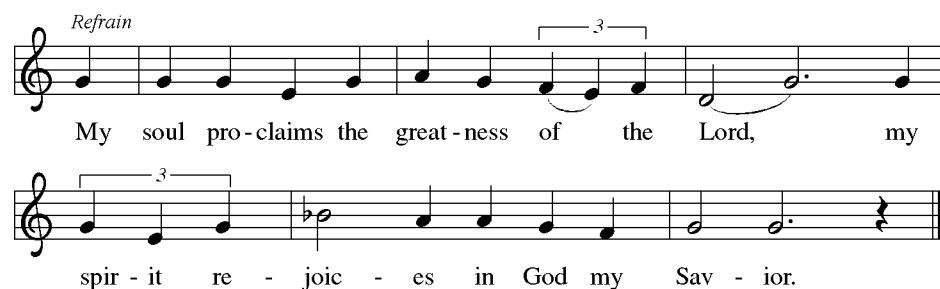
A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>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.  
<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>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.

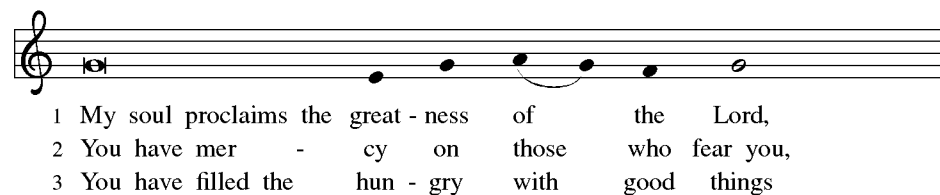
Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

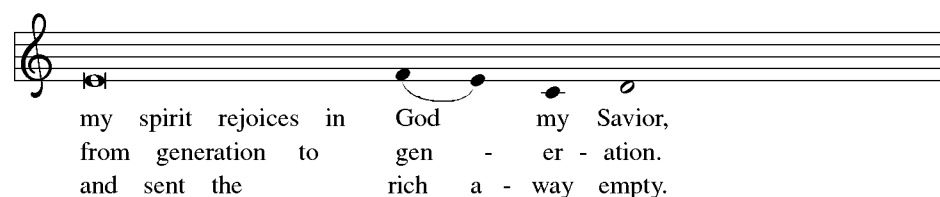
*Refrain*



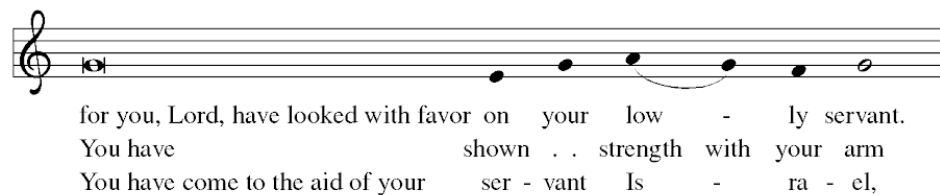
My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord, my  
spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.



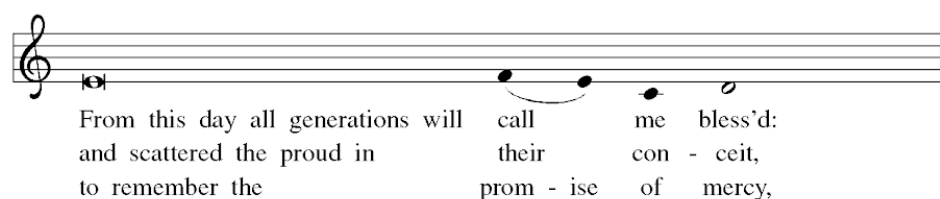
1 My soul proclaims the great-ness of the Lord,  
2 You have mer - cy on those who fear you,  
3 You have filled the hun - gry with good things



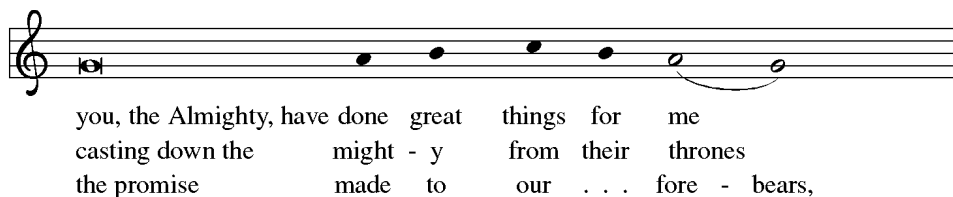
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
from generation to gen - er - ation.  
and sent the rich a - way empty.



for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your low - ly servant.  
You have shown . . strength with your arm  
You have come to the aid of your ser - vant Is - ra - el,

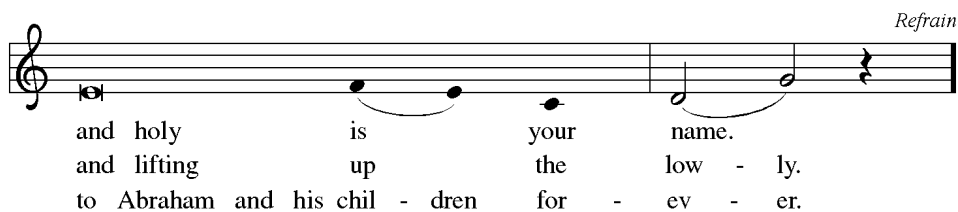


From this day all generations will call me bless'd:  
and scattered the proud in their con - ceit,  
to remember the prom - ise of mercy,



you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
casting down the might - y from their thrones  
the promise made to our . . . fore - bears,

*Refrain*



and holy is your name.  
and lifting up the low - ly.  
to Abraham and his chil - dren for - ev - er.

## GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>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.**

## HOMILY

*The congregation may be seated.*

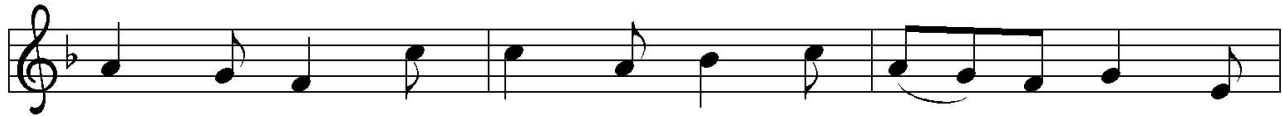
Vicar Alex Linn

# HYMN OF THE DAY

*The congregation may stand*  
On Christmas Night (ELW 274)



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come  
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then  
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and  
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.  
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
sing, all for to see the new-born king.  
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.  
Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors and the world God loves. You may assume a posture of prayer through standing, kneeling, or sitting.

*Silence*

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers.*)

Hear us, O God.                      or              Lord, we praise you.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.*

*The congregation may be seated.*

## + Meal +

## OFFERTORY

*We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!*



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Magnum Mysterium

by Tomás Luis de Victoria

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum  
Ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praeseptio!  
O beata virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare  
Dominum, Jesum Christum - Alleluia!

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger!  
O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear  
the Lord Jesus Christ - Alleluia!

# OFFERTORY VERSE

*The congregation may stand.*

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies (ELW 280)



1 Ming - xing can - lan ye wei yang, Bo - li - heng cheng  
2 Ming - xing can - lan ye wei yang, gu - deng ying - ying  
1 Mid - night stars make bright the skies, Beth - le - hem in  
2 Mid - night slum - ber lies o'er all, one lone bright lamp



zai shui - xiang; ye - wai mu - ren  
zhao ke - chuang; qu lai jiu - bu  
slum - ber lies: glis - t'ning heav'n sends  
lights the stall. Choose old cloth - ing,



jian yi - xiang, tian - shang jiao - ran fa da - guang;  
zuo qiang - pao, ma - cao quan dang yu - er - chuang;  
forth a great light, shep - herds see a won - drous sight!  
wrap him warm - ly, man - ger shall his cra - dle be.



tian - shi lie - dui tong ge - chang, mu - ren jian zhi xian jing - huang;  
wei yu jiu - shi zheng xian - ni, dao cheng ren - shen zhen - li zhang;  
An - gel ranks in cho - rus sing. Silk - en sounds from heav - en ring.  
Born to save us from our sin, Word made flesh, our lives to win,



hu - wen lun - yin ban jiu - xiao, xuan - yan Sheng - zi jiang xia - fang;  
cai li di - zuo lin xia - jie, ren - shih jian - xin yi bei - chang.  
Fright - ened shep - herds hear them say: "Christ is born on earth to - day!"  
came to earth from heav - en's throne, mor - tals' sin to bear a - lone.



Zhi - gao rong - yao gui Shang - zhu, quan - di ren - min fu wu - jiang.  
Glo - ry be to God on high, blest are all be - neath the sky.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**God our provider,  
by your merciful hand  
abundance springs up from the earth.**

**Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty,  
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love  
and faithfulness for all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Dialogue section consists of four staves of music in B-flat major (two flats). Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." on the first staff, "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." on the second staff, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." on the third staff, and "It is right to give our thanks and praise." on the fourth staff. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

“... we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:”

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

As the shadows lengthen,  
we bless you, sheltering God.

We glorify you for the endless, starlit sky, deep with the mystery of your creative labor through all time and space.

We praise you for the fertile earth and for the life its darkness holds and births: plants of every variety, animals curled in sleep, humankind you shaped by your own hand.

Stay with us, for it is evening.

**Stay with us, for it is evening.**

Through the night you led your people into freedom.

At day's end you rained down manna in the wilderness.

At sundown your Son brought healing to people in need.

In the midday night when Jesus died on the cross, life came forth for all.

Stay with us, for it is evening.

**Stay with us, for it is evening.**

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.

Our hearts burn within us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Like a mother hen, hold us close through the coming night.  
Watch with those who labor, accompany those who long for peaceful sleep, welcome those whose  
waking will be only in you.  
Into our deepest night, come, Lord Jesus.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come, Holy Spirit, make here the body of Christ: in the breaking of the bread,  
in justice for our broken world, in rest for the weary, come, Holy Spirit.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**  
To you, O God,  
painter of both night and day,  
guiding star and healing sun,  
breath of peace and wind of change,  
be all glory, all honor, all praise  
this night unto the coming dawn, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## INVITATION

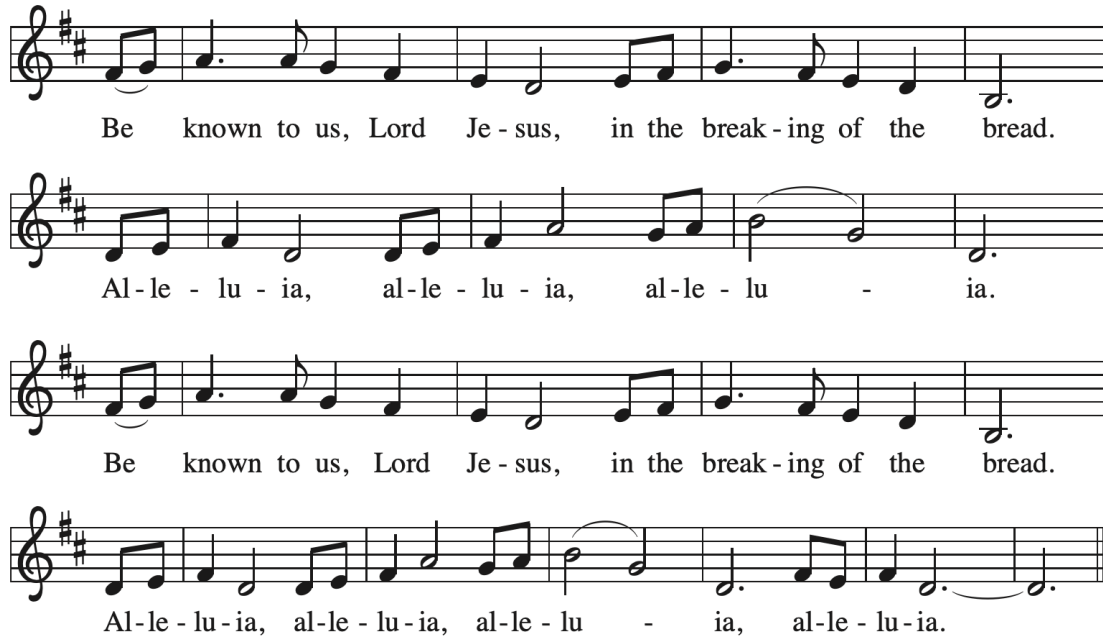
In this meal is the light for all life, Come, for Christ first welcomed us.

## COMMUNION

*The congregation may be seated.*

*All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## COMMUNION CAROL

## 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.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has  
 been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion  
 which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:  
 a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,  
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,  
 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Music: Plainsong, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## + Sending +

### PROCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

*During the reading of the Proclamation, light is passed from the Christ candle to each worshiper. Light your candle by tipping your unlit candle over your neighbor's burning candle. Never tip a burning candle.*

Today, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed all people in Their image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.



Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome. The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, Son of the eternal God, desiring to sanctify the world by Their most merciful incarnation, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

This is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ; thanks be to God.

## HYMN

## Silent Night

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.

## BENEDICTION

The peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
keep your hearts and your minds  
in + Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Noel: Grand Jeu et Duo  
Daquin

by Louis-Claude

Worship materials adapted this day from multiple ecumenical partners including the Episcopal Church, USA, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2023).

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## SERVING TODAY

*Interim:*

*Assisting Minister:*

*Director of Music:*

*Soprano:*

*Alto:*

*Tenor:*

*Bass:*

*Altar Guild:*

Vicar Alex Linn

Jan Wendel

Luke Duroc-Danner

Ariel Andrew

Katarina Galagaza

Ricardo Rivera

Scott Spector

Cindi Rachowicz

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Year-End Donations**

As we approach the end of 2023, we welcome your consideration of an end-of-year gift to St. John's. An end-of-year donation helps bolster our financial footing for our ministry here at St. John's and in our community. Please note that if you'd like your gift to qualify as a 2023 donation, it needs to be postmarked, hand delivered, or submitted electronically by December 31st. Checks dated in 2023 but postmarked or hand-delivered in 2024 will be counted as 2024 donations. December 31st is a Sunday this year, so if you are mailing a 2023 year-end donation, please mail early!

As you consider an end-of-year contribution, please keep in mind that RMD distributions and stock gifts are welcome options for giving. These must also be made by December 31 to qualify as a 2023 donation. If you have already met your RMD for 2023, we encourage you to consider this option for your 2024 giving.

Finally, if you are prepaying your 2024 pledge/donation, please make a note of this when you submit your gift. Donations submitted on or before December 31 st that are indicated as being for 2024 will be recorded on your 2023 giving statement but recognized in St. John's 2024 financial reporting. If you have questions about giving at St. John's, please contact our Treasurer, Michel Hauser, [michelhauser@outlook.com](mailto:michelhauser@outlook.com). Thank you for your generosity!

## POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias decorating the church this Christmas are given to the glory of God by:

- Lyn and Dave Brunn, in thanksgiving for Karen and Kathy and their families.
- Rachel Cordts, in loving memory of Rachel E. and William J. Cordts.
- Buckley and Susan Crist, in thanksgiving for many happy Christmases with family and friends.
- The Danielsen's, in thanksgiving for our family, friends, and a year of togetherness.
- John and Michel Hauser, in loving memory of Lewis and Ilze Williams and in thanksgiving for Cyril and Tish Hauser.
- Ken and Diane Kastman, in loving memory of Carolyn Groves – mother of their daughter-in-law, Mary Kastman.
- Karl Leinberger, in loving memory of Barbara Bolin Leinberger and in thanksgiving for Rena Leinberger.
- Alex Linn, in thanksgiving for Nico and Neko, their two rescue dogs.
- The Loesel family, in thanksgiving for all God's blessings.
- Alissa & Dan Novak and family, in loving memory of Robert Novak and in thanksgiving for their family and friends.
- Jan Rassenfoss and Alan Swanson, in thanksgiving for family and friends.
- Alla Rusz, in loving memory of Richard Rusz and in thanksgiving for her St. John's family.
- Jason Shutters, in thanksgiving for another Christmas together.
- Jan Wendel, in loving memory of Doris and Charles Regan, Kevin Beretta and Tom Wendel.
- Nancy and Larry Wood, in thanksgiving for friends and family.

## NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Romualds Jermaks (b. 1931) is a Latvian composer, teacher, and organist. Born in Latgale (eastern region of Latvia) before the Soviet occupation, Romualds learned the organ from his father. He went on to attend the Latvian State Conservatory for composition, and he worked as a music teacher and sound engineer following graduation. He helped compile a record of the Historical Organs of Latvia along with assisting, maintain and repair organs throughout Latvia. He began holding in 1983 a private yearly festival for organ music in his home on a self-built organ. Following the reestablishment of Latvia's independence, Romualds helped newly revived church congregations fill the need for educated organists. He has composed over 900 works, and in 2001, he received the Republic of Latvia's Culture Ministry Award of Gratitude for his lifetime achievements in Latvian music.

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611) was a Spanish composer who ranks alongside Palestrina and Orlando di Lasso as one of the greatest composers of the 16th century. Little is known of his early life, but in 1565, he was sent by King Philip II of Spain to study in Rome. He studied with and succeeded Palestrina as the Director of Music at the Roman Seminary, and he also assisted Phillipo Neri at San Giolamo della Carità. He returned to Spain where he would service the dowager empress, Maria, and he became the priest and organist for the convent of Descalzas Reales in Madrid. Victoria's works include 21 masses, 44 motets, two passions, a Requiem mass, and many other hymns, psalms and other liturgical works. His style is marked by both elegant usage of Palestrina's contrapuntal technique with a passionate mysticism and deep emotionality.

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772) was a French keyboardist and composer. Born the godson of noted composer, Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, Daquin was a young prodigy who played before Louis XIV at age 6. By 12, Daquin was appointed the organist at the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris. He would hold a variety of positions - even beating out other famous musicians including Jean-Phillipe Rameau - and in 1739 he was made organist to King Louis XV at the Chapelle Royale. In 1755, he would also be made the titular organist at Notre-Dame. His earliest work is a choral piece, *Beatus Vir*, which he composed and conducted at age 8. He is most famous today for his four harpsichord suites as well as his book of Noëls, settings of various Christmas carols popular in his day.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Peter Knobel, hospitalized
- † Rena Leinberger, cancer diagnosis 11/12/23
- † Family and Friends of Hing You Tam Siu, mother-in-law of Jim Dossa, who passed away
- † Family & friends of Viola Gonder, mother of Craig Gonder, who died 8/7/23
- † Congratulations to Dano Johnson & Emily Mock, who were married June 17, 2023
- † Family & friends of Richard Rusz, who died 6/6/23
- † Family & friends of Karen Daugherty, aunt of Erin Rasmussen, who died 5/8/23
- † Family & friends of Joan Schinler, who died 5/5/23
- † Sarah Rink, hospitalized after a fall 3/8/23
- † Family & friends of Ruby Winter, who died 1/10/23
- † Steve Morrison, son of Tom & Judy Morrison, recovering from back surgery 1/1/23
- † Family & friends of Marge Bennett, loved one of Kristen Daniels, who died 11/17/22
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing
- † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury
- † Mindy Davis, seeking permanent housing, 2/23/22
- † Lorraine Beutelspacher, moved to new home in Arizona 2/3/23