

## **Poinsettias**

*The altar poinsettias are given to the glory of the Lord,  
as well as in honor and in memory of cherished children of God.*

The Bernardos in memory of Patrick, Olga and Nolan Bednardo, Jo  
Shelton, and Dante Fossa

Vince Besednjak in memory of Mirella Besednjak

Donna Franz in memory of Robert Franz

Barb Gaglione in memory of loved ones

Joan and Mike Garvin in memory of Lois and Paul Gerstenberger &  
Clyde and Mildred Garvin

Paula Hohenstein in memory of Alex Hohenstein, Bill and Emma Ho-  
henstein and Carl and Martha Slanicka

Ted Lockmiller in memory of Christine Lockmiller and Theodore E. Lock-  
miller, Sr.

Elaine & Keary Knerem Sr in memory of all our loved ones.

Marie Prendergast in memory of Louise, Susan & Pat Prendergast,  
Rosemary, Matt & Chuck Merchant, Patsy, Dick & Clare Hanusz,  
Stella Markham and Christine Russell and Rita Highhouse.

Claudia and Steve Senderak in memory of Mom and Dad Kearns, Mom  
and Dad Senderak, Bob and Pat Skidmore, and Steve Sandor.

Allan Treichel in memory of Phyllis & Don Treichel

Sheila & Harry Werner Praise god for all He provides

Karen & Ray Zack and family in memory of our mom & dad Kause

Marie and Bert Zahn in memory of Wilma and Bert C. Zahn, Dorothy  
and William Parry, and loved ones

Charlotte Zaranka in memory of granddaughter Rebecca

Welcome to the Lutheran Church of the Covenant!

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.

We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. Headings preceded by an asterisk \* indicate when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activites to help children feel more at home in worship.





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,



Hold - er 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,  
peace,  
born!  
birth,  
schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## \*Blessing

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night, draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, one God forever and ever. **Amen! Jesus Christ is born today!**



## **Serving in Worship Today**

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Ted Lockmiller
Lector	Harry Werner
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Proclaimer	Jen Lasher-Dobush
Advent Wreath	Emily Garberich
	Katie Garberich
Reader	Steve Dobush
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

# Communion Hymn: The First Noel ELW # 300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw .. a star shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that .. same star three ..  
4 This star drew near to the .. north - west, o'er ..  
5 Then en - tered in those wise .. men three, full ..



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

## Refrain



night that was so deep.  
tin - ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

## \*Processional Hymn: 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,



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!

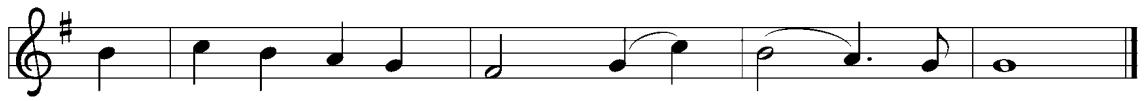


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - rv to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:

*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!

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

## **\*Communion Prayer**

## **\*The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered together tonight by the birth of Christ, let us pray as Christ 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.

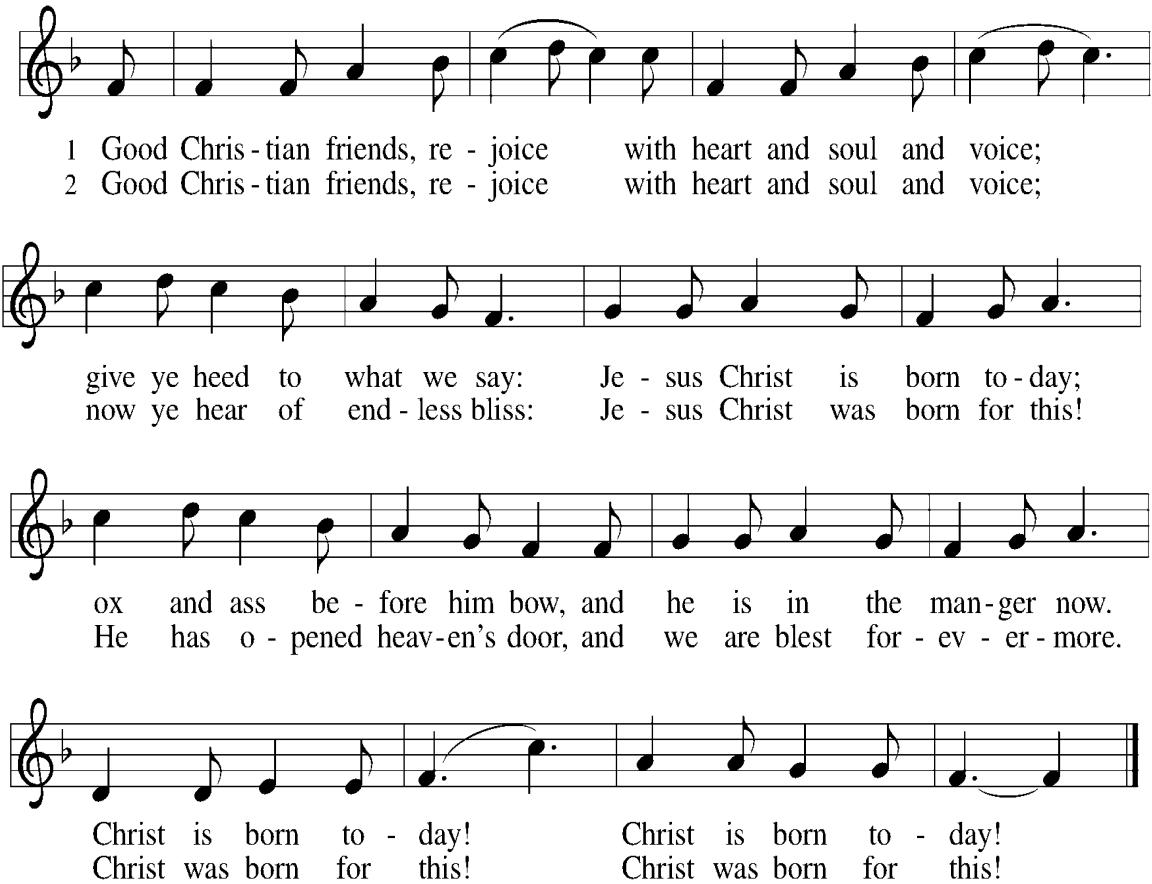
**Save us from the time of trial**  
    and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,**  
    and the glory are yours,  
    now and forever. Amen.

## **Invitation to Communion**

**Distribution Song: Lamb of God (next page)**

## \*Candle Hymn of Praise



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.

Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!

Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!

## \*Prayer of the Day

Holy God, tonight we celebrate your presence on earth. Tonight, open our hearts to the sparks of your presence still in this world. Open our eyes, that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people. God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light, we might banish the shadows of this world, and we might be the continuation of the-Christmas miracle: Emmanuel is in this world, God is with us, now and evermore. **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may we join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night. **Shine your light and peace, O God.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns within the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### \*Offertory Hymn: Give Thanks

(please stand as the offering is brought forward)

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Last time

Give thanks!

## **Psalm 96**

Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the Lord,  
sing and praise God's name.

**Day after day announce, "The Lord has saved us!"**

**Tell every nation on earth, "The Lord is wonderful and does marvelous things!"**

The Lord is great and deserves our greatest praise!

Other nations worship idols,  
but the Lord created the heavens.

**Give honor and praise to the Lord,  
whose power and beauty fill his holy temple."**

**Tell everyone of every nation,  
"praise the glorious power of the Lord."**

Announce to the nations, "The Lord is King!"

The world stands firm, never to be shaken,  
and God will judge its people with fairness."

**Tell the heavens and the earth  
to be glad and celebrate!**

**Command the ocean to roar with all its creatures  
and the fields to rejoice with all their crops.**

Then even every tree in the forest  
will sing joyful songs to the Lord.

## **Second Reading: Titus 2:1-4**

God's readiness to give and forgive is now public. Salvation's available for everyone! We're being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honoring life. This new life is starting right now and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appears. He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life, making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness. God's Word for God's people. **Thanks be to God**

# \*Hymn of the Day: Joy to the World ELW # 267



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  
  
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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!

This is the good news of Jesus! **Praise to you, O Christ .**