

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2021**  
**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH**  
*Lutheran Church*  
*Missouri Synod*



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Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor  
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956.463.1305

*Sunday*  
9:00 AM  
Worship Service  
10:30 am  
*Adult Bible Class*  
*Sunday School*

Holy Communion:  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Website  
*lutheranmercedes.*  
*com*

**FACEBOOK**  
*www.facebook.com/*  
*lutheranmercedes/*

Office Hrs, M-F  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm  
CCLI # 2585

**“For there is born to you this day  
in the city of David a Savior, who  
is Christ the Lord.” And this will  
be the sign to you: You will find a  
Babe wrapped in swaddling  
cloths, lying in a manger.””**



# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2021

## WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors here today. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

**AS WE GATHER** Throughout history, our gracious God has made outlandish promises. His spokesmen, the writers of biblical books, said that a descendant of David would come to sit on an eternal royal throne. More than that, His titles would include some reserved for God in heaven. He was and is a Wonderful Counselor, revealing God's love in His own life and death; the Mighty God, though hidden within fragile flesh and blood; the Everlasting Father, though trapped in time and space; and the Prince of Peace, ruling not by enforcement of divine law but by forgiving all who call to Him for grace and mercy. Today, we celebrate His birth among us in time, as promised long ago and in our hearts each day.

## **RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **WELCOME**

P Luke records that the first angel who brought the good news of the birth of the Savior was suddenly joined by a multitude of the heavenly host who praised God together. What an amazing sight that must have been—and what amazing sounds for the shepherds to hear! The music must have resounded off the rocks on the fields there outside of Bethlehem in an unforgettable way! Through our singing, we echo that praise this day.

### **PRELUDE**

*Away in a Manger*

*(A quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)*



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;



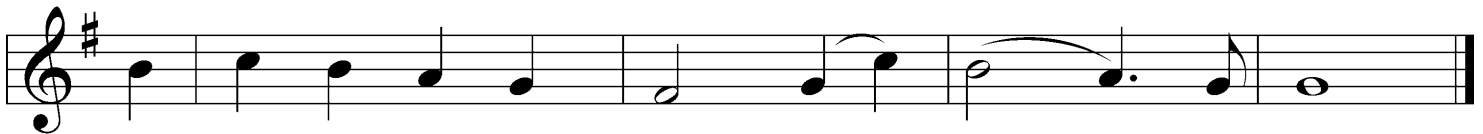
come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



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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**INVOCATION**

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

**C** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
 those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a

light has shined.

**C You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.**

P For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

**C For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire.**

P For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE** (John 8:12, Psalm 98)

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**C the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

**C and illumine Your Church.**

P Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

**C The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.**

P He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**C Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.**

P Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm,

**C** with trumpets and the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.

**P** Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell in it;

**C** Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together

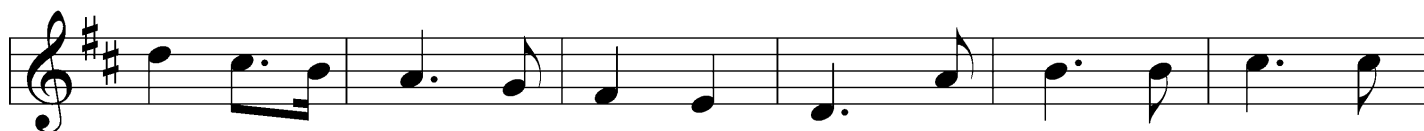
**P** before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

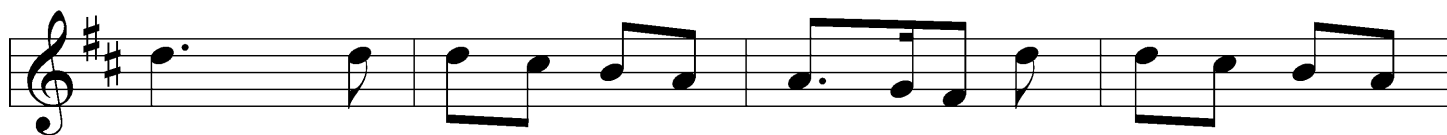
**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*"Joy to the World"*

**LSB 387**



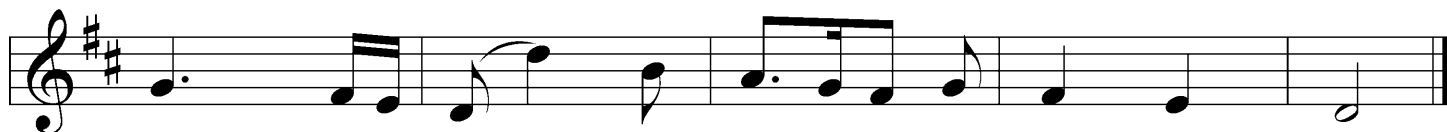
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
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.

## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## + LESSONS AND CAROLS +

### LESSON

#### Part 1: Prophecies of a Savior

Isaiah 11:1, 4a; Numbers 24:15b, 17a; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2

P “There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;” Isaiah 11:1, 4a

### HYMN

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*

**St. 1: LSB 359**



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the

cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.

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P In Numbers, chapter 24, we read that the Savior would be royal. “The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, and the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened;” “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near;” Numbers 24:15b, 17a

**HYMN**                    *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*                    **St. 1: LSB 357**

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. *Refrain* Re - jice! Re - jice!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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P Isaiah wrote about our Lord’s virgin birth. “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

**HYMN**                    *“Savior of the Nations, Come”*                    **St. 1: LSB 332**

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin’s Son, make

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

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P Micah foretold where Jesus would be born.  
“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2

**HYMN**                      *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*                      **St. 1: LSB 361**

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.

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P It is not enough to look back at the historical fact of Jesus' birth; today we celebrate the love God showers on us daily, which we share, and about which we sing in later stanzas of these same hymns.



## LESSON

## Part 2: Love from Our Savior

1 John 4:7-9, 10-12, 15-16; Titus 2:11-14

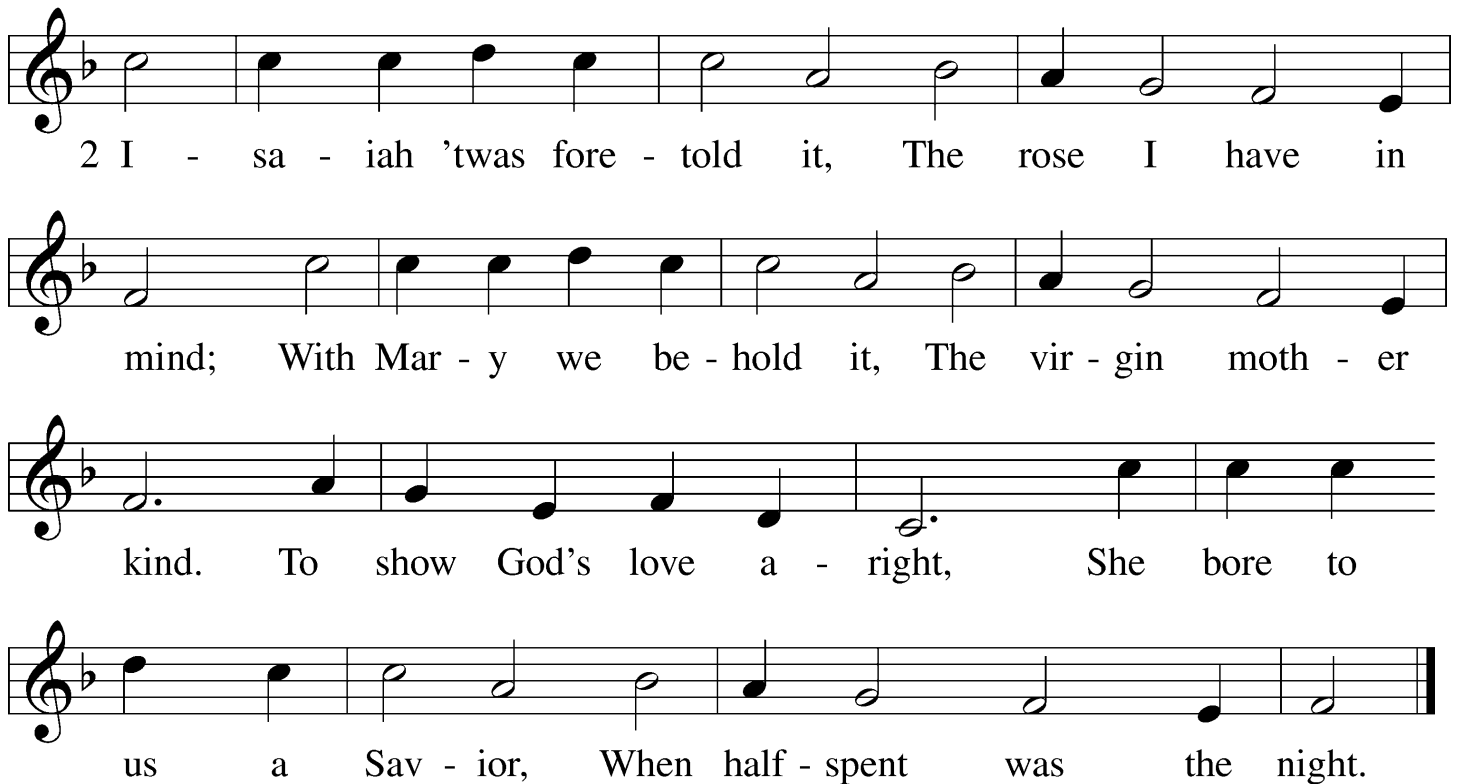
P In his First Epistle, John writes,  
“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

1 John 4:7-9

## HYMN

*“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”*

**St. 2: LSB 359**



2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.

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P John continues,  
“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.” 1 John 4:10-12

**HYMN***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”***St. 7: LSB 357**

**ref** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

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**P** And John concludes,  
“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” 1 John 4:15-16

**HYMN***“Savior of the Nations, Come”***St. 7: LSB 332**

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

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**P** Paul writes to Titus and us:  
“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

Titus 2:11-14

**HYMN****“O Little Town of Bethlehem”****Sts. 3-4: LSB 361**

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;



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.



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;



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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**GOSPEL READING***Luke 2:8-17*

(Angels announce the Savior's birth to shepherds.)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” 13 And 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, goodwill toward men!"

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

**CHRISTMAS HYMN**    *Angels We Have Heard on High*    **LSB 368**



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

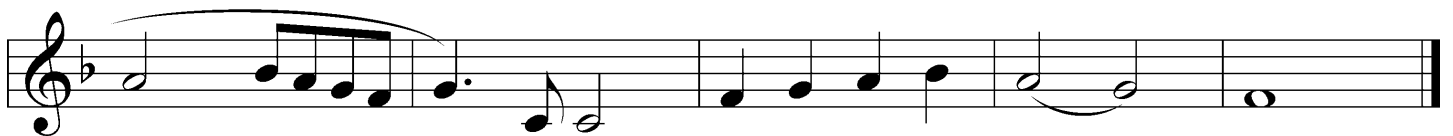
*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

*“Glory to God in the Highest”*

(Luke 2:14)

## **APOSTLES CREED**

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***LSB 380**

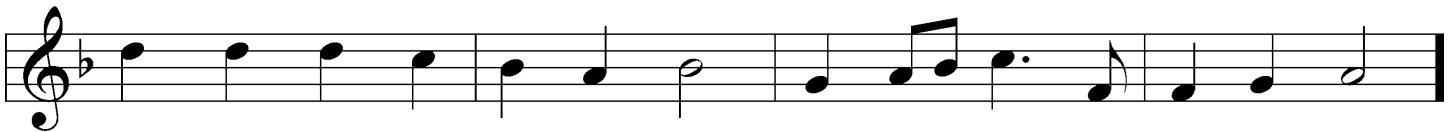
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



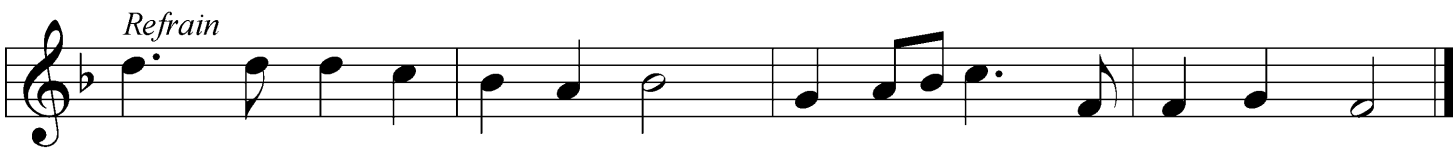
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



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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**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**P** God entered human history in the person of Jesus, who experienced all our joys and sorrows. He has promised that our heavenly Father will hear whatever we ask in His name. Let us bring our requests to Him in confident faith.

Wonderful Counselor, we pray that You will give empathy, wisdom, and compassion to all who seek to meet the needs of the people around them, providing food, clothing, and shelter, tending

to the sick and injured, and responding to human crises and natural disasters. Remember, we pray, those with special needs and those known only to You. As You give us opportunity, grant that we may be part of Your answers to their petitions.

Mighty God, whose Word created all things in heaven and on earth, when storms rage, fires spread, or the earth trembles, give courage and skill to those who would provide rescue, relief, and shelter.

Bless those who till the soil and raise crops and all who manage and distribute the world's bounty, that the hungry be fed, the poor clothed, and the displaced given shelter. Gracious God, receive our plea;

**C hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.**

**P** Everlasting Father, shower Your grace on all families, enabling parents and children to grow in faith and love. In neighborhoods, communities, and cities where there is discord, open doors of peace; where there is discrimination, provide justice; where there is loneliness, provide companionship. Bless individuals and organizations to use the talents and resources You provide to restore dignity, health, and peace to everyone in their care. Gracious God, receive our plea;

**C hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.**

**P** Prince of Peace, use the earthly powers that be to put into positions of authority those who will work for justice within their nations and cooperation across their borders. Give protection and courage to police and first responders in their communities and to armed forces deployed. Where wars threaten, move leaders to seek calm; where long-term animosity gives rise to fear and hatred, open avenues of communication and understanding. Grant that Your Church stand as a beacon in this troubled world to proclaim the Gospel and exhibit loving forgiveness in Your name. Grant that many find the peace they seek in You, our gracious Savior. Gracious God, receive our plea;

**C hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.**

**P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9–13

**ALL** 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.

**CANDLELIGHTING**

*[During the following hymn, the pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the ushers. They pass the light on to the congregation.]*

*\*Tip: Tip only the unlighted candle.*

**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-gracious 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 - 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.  
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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## BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

**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 give you peace.

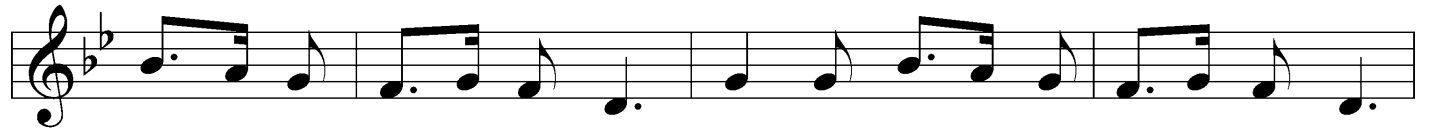
**C** Amen.

*(Dim lights)*

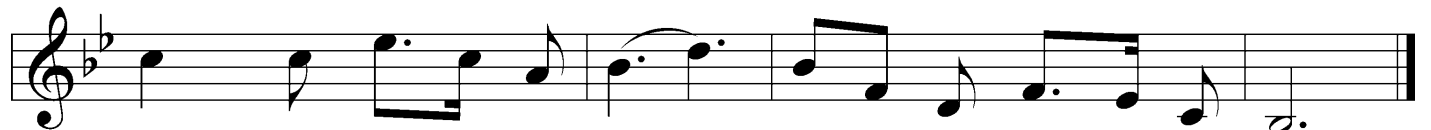




1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round you

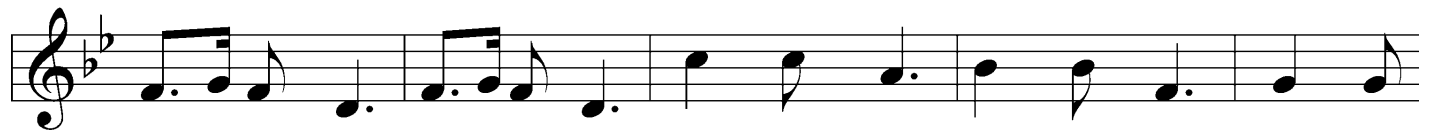


vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,

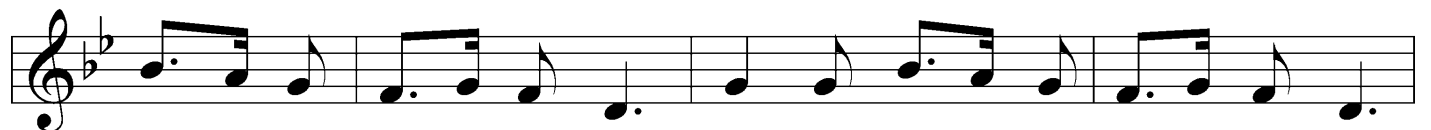


Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

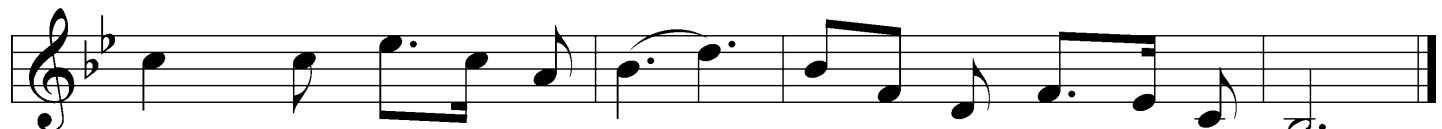
1s ¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!  
 Todo duerme en derredor.  
 Entre los astros que esparcen su luz,  
 bella anunciando al niño Jesús  
 brilla la estrella de paz,  
 brilla la estrella de paz.



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



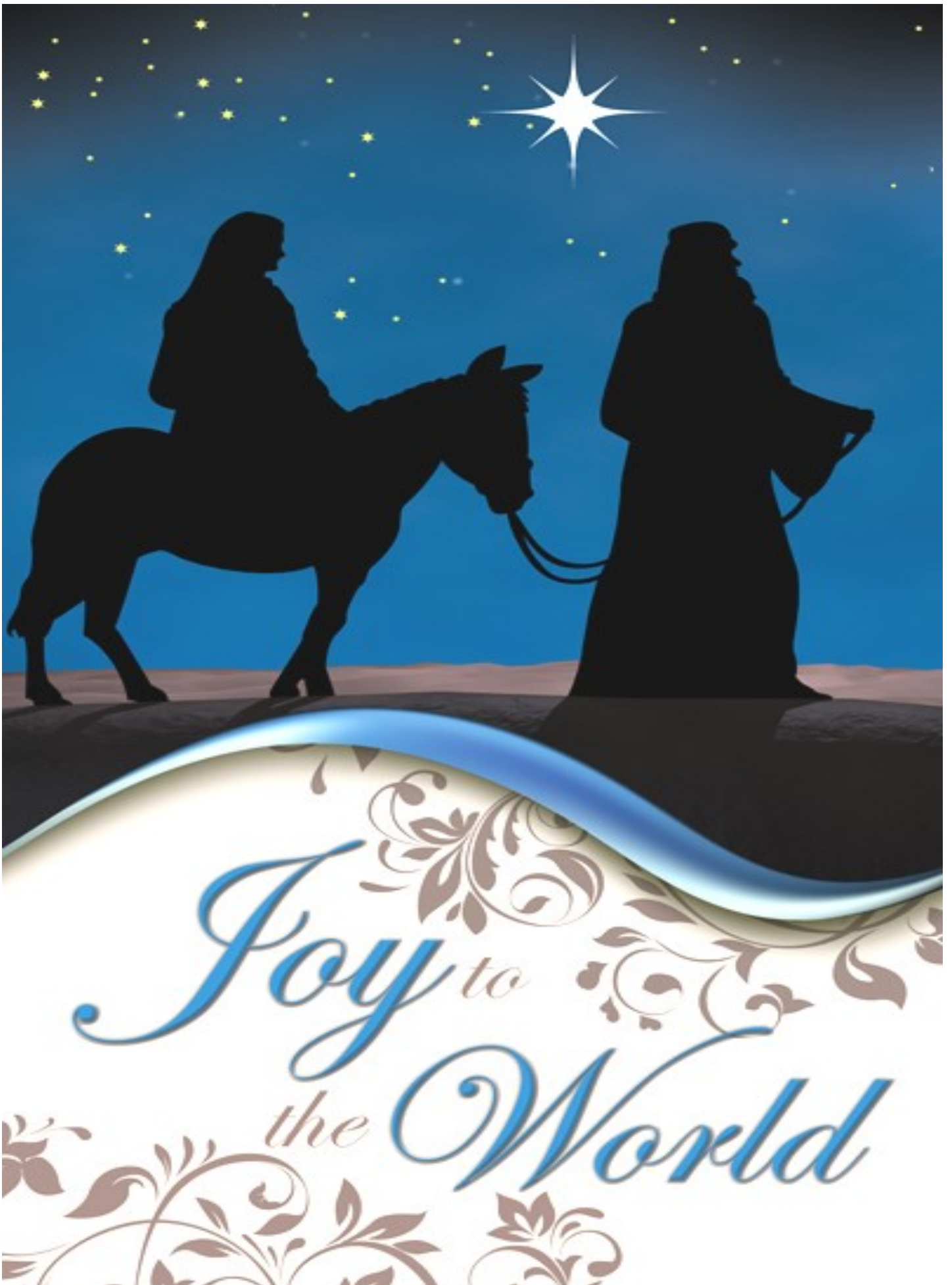
stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



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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*Joy to  
the World*