

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2022
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



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Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
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Sunday
9:00 AM
Worship Service

10:30 am
Adult Bible Class
Sunday School

Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday
Website

lutheranmercedes.
com

FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/
lutheranmercedes/

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



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2022

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 The original title of the Christmas carol “In dulci jubilo” (LSB 386, “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”) was interpreted by the famous French organist and composer Marcel Dupre as “In Quiet Joy.” Another familiar hymn tells of the birth of the Savior in the words “How silently the wondrous gift is given!” (LSB 361:3). Though there were moments of rage and loud opposition through His earthly ministry, many of our Lord’s activities happened in the quiet and stillness of His presence. Indeed, even as He accomplished His goal, He entered Jerusalem in quiet humility, suffered obediently, closed His eyes and breathed His last in death, and finally was laid in the stone-cold silence of a tomb. There are times for loud praise and rejoicing, but this night let us gather in quiet joy contemplating the mystery that, in this little babe in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, fulfilled God’s ancient promise of redemption and peace for all who would be drawn in the silence of the Spirit of God through His Word and blessed Sacraments.

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)

HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 379

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!

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (half), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

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

Refrain



The Refrain is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (half), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half), C#4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). The notes are written on a five-line staff, with D4 on the first line, E4 on the second, F#4 on the second space, G4 on the third, A4 on the third space, B4 on the fourth, and the remaining notes descending to D3 on the first space.

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Habakkuk 2:20

P In dulci júbilo! In quiet joy! In quiet joy, we gather this evening, this very special night.

C **The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.**

P We gather from our busy lives, our hurried routines, the loud noises of life,

C **in quiet joy.**

P We bring our wearied bodies, our troubled hearts, our restless souls in hope,

C **in quiet joy.**

P God is here, the LORD is in His holy temple;

C **let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the silence of this moment, let us prepare ourselves, and confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection.

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

Silence for reflection.

P In the silence of this night, by the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and in quiet joy.

C **Amen.**

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**

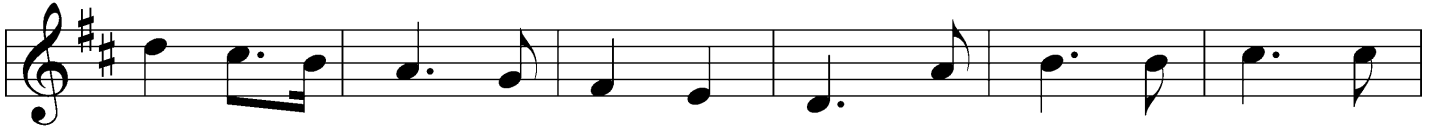
P before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.

+ 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
play, 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.

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness

of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ LESSONS AND CAROLS +

LESSON

Micah 5:2

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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LESSON

1 John 4:7–9, 10–12, 15–16

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

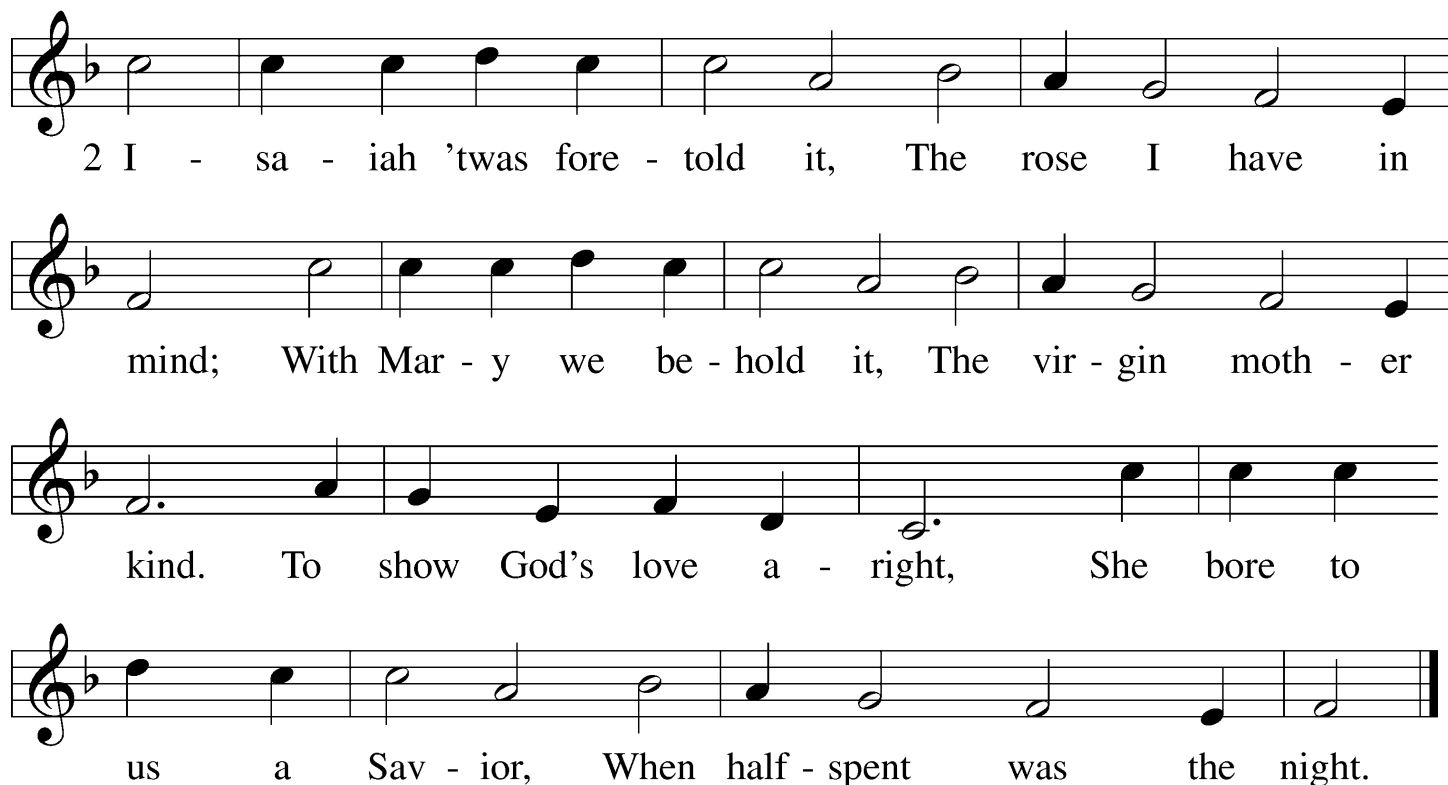
manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

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.

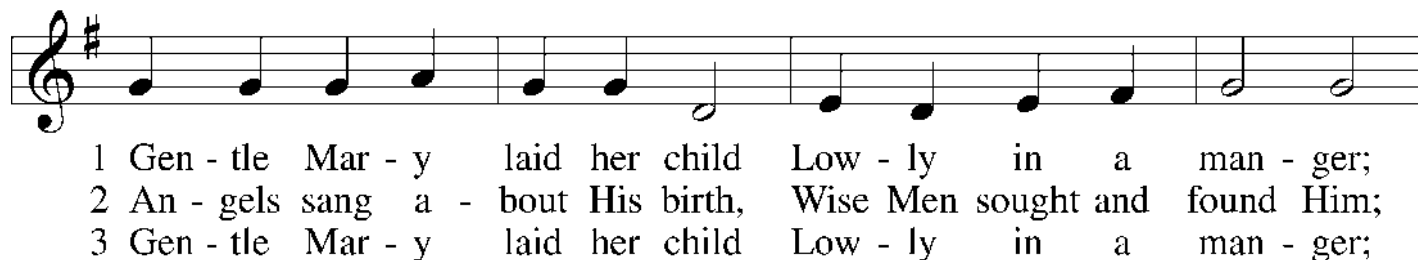
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P John continues,
“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another,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

HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



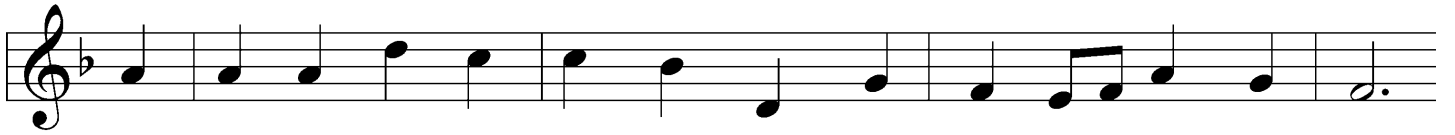
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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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**“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 2:1-20*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

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."

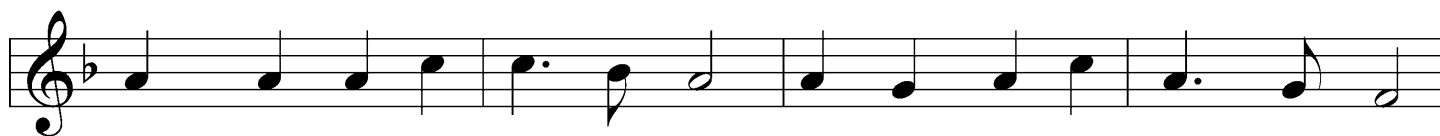
13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

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. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

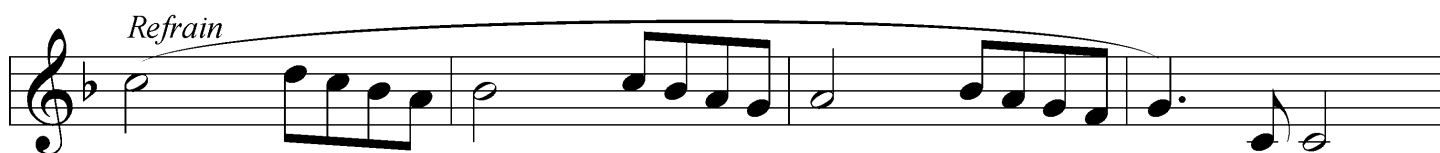
C Praise to You, O Christ.

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;



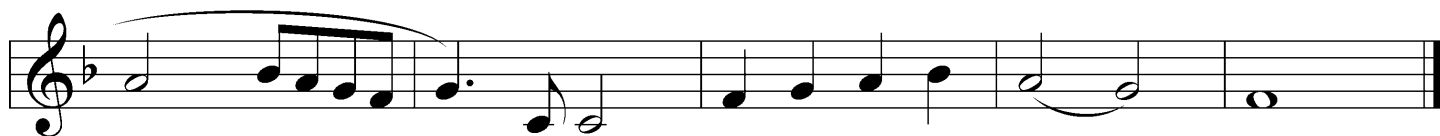
And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



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



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

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE*"Room for Jesus this Christmas...?"*

(Luke 2:7)

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 Righteous-ness!



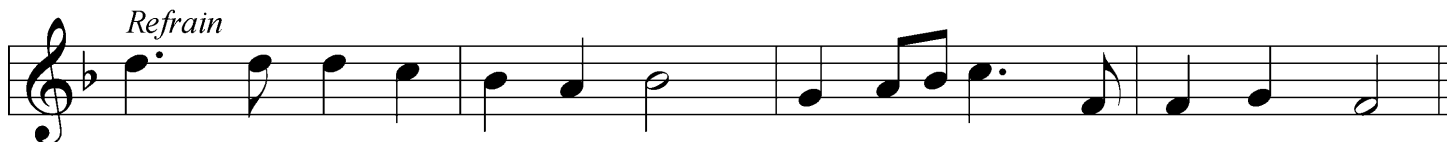
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



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.



Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

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CHRISTMAS PRAYER

P Almighty and ever-living God, hear our prayer from the silence of our hearts and from Your Holy Church. Inspire all those who

confess Your holy name with the Spirit of truth, unity, and concord. Grant that they agree in the truth of Your holy Word and live in unity and godly love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Save and defend our country, heavenly Father. Grant to all in authority wisdom and strength to know and do Your will. Direct the hearts of all rulers that they rightly administer justice to all. Give grace to all pastors and servants of Your Church that they by both their life and doctrine proclaim Your true and lively Word and rightly administer Your holy Sacraments. Give to all Your people Your heavenly grace that in quiet joy and with due reverence they hear and receive Your holy Word, truly serving You in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We implore You, O Lord, mercifully to consider this congregation begging You especially to comfort and help all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any adversity. Defend them from every evil to body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, we give You high praise and thanks for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all Your saints from the beginning of the world. We commend to Your mercy also, O Lord, all Your servants who have departed with the sign of faith and now rest in the sleep of peace. Grant that on the day of the resurrection of all flesh, we and all Your servants of the mystical Body of Your Son be set together on His right hand and hear His most joyful voice saying, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant this, O Father, for the sake of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Mediator, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.]

HYMN

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

LSB 366



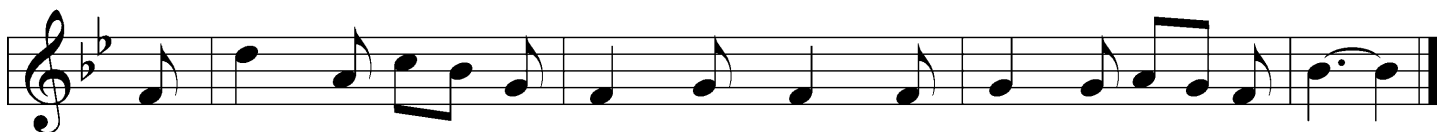
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



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-gra-cious 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.

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)

HYMN

Silent Night

LSB 363



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




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

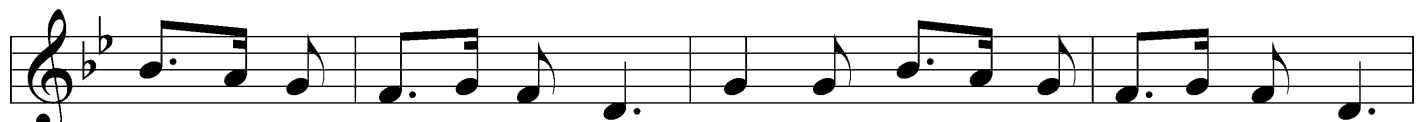


Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.


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 - dant



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.