

December 24, 2024
Nativity of Our Lord
4:30pm



CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

A long time ago when God created the heavens and the earth
and God made humankind in God's own image.

Long after the great flood in which Noah was saved
and God made the rainbow as a sign of God's promise.

After the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah
that they would be the descendants of many nations.

After Moses led the people of Israel into the promised land
and Miriam, his sister danced in freedom.

After while after the time of Ruth and the judges
and still after David was anointed as king.

At just the right time, in just the right place,
while the world was at peace, Jesus Christ was born
to make the world a holy place and be God with us.

This is the night of Jesus birth, Emmanuel, God is with us.

WELCOME

GATHERING 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 c - 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
 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!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

(Please be seated)



FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

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

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL

Children are invited to ring bells each time "Gloria in excelsis Deo" is sung.

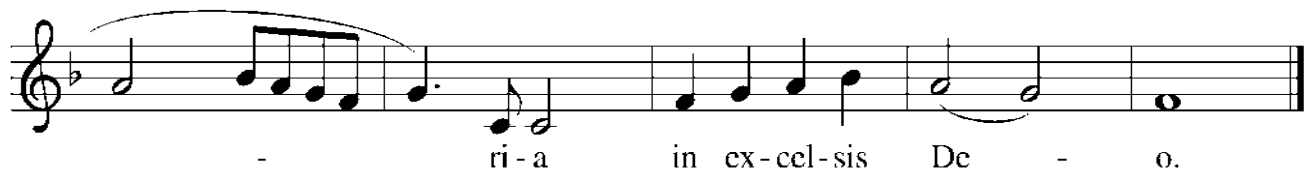
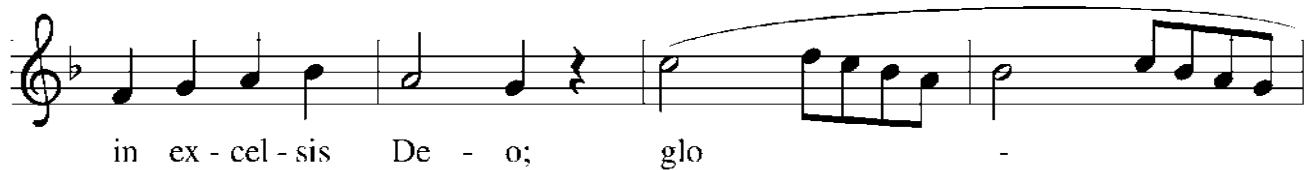
Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289



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?



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?



GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

*Each time the reader announces To us is born a Savior, the assembly responds: **Jesus Christ our Lord.***

Our Christmas Eve story comes from the Gospel of Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus **Christ our Lord.**

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL

Angels We Have Heard on High, st. 3 ELW 289



3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

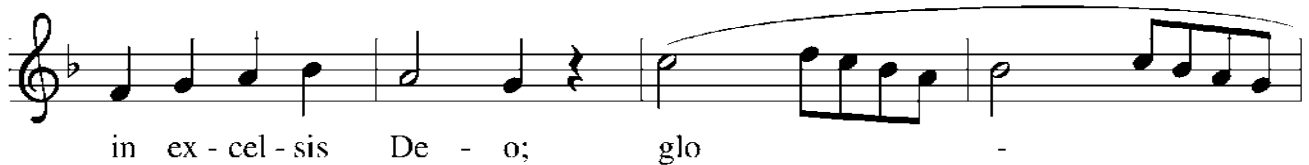


come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

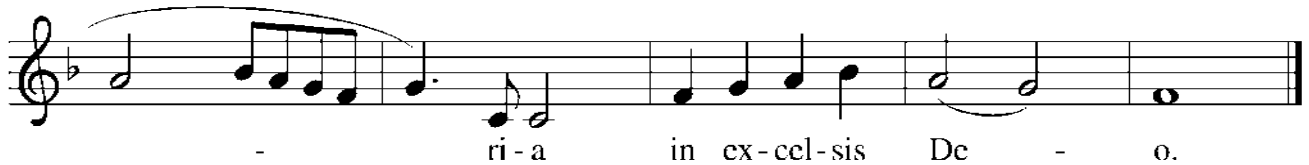


Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



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

FAMILY MESSAGE

Jesus, the Light of the World

Pastor Tara and Sandy Betley

HYMN OF THE DAY

Away In a Manger ELW 277

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be - near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world to share the shepherd's news. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PASSING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always

C **And also with you.**

P Let us share signs of God's peace.

OFFERING

*Offering plates are at the doors of the sanctuary and you may place your gift there
After communion or before you leave. If you would like to give online, please go
to www.glcde.org or scan the QR code.*



OFFERTORY

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and
true; With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.
- C **Amen.**

P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you**
P Lift up your heart
C **We lift them to the Lord**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
C **It is right to give out thanks and praise.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus. All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

Once in Royal David's City ELW 269

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Once in Royal David's City". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style, suitable for distribution during a service.

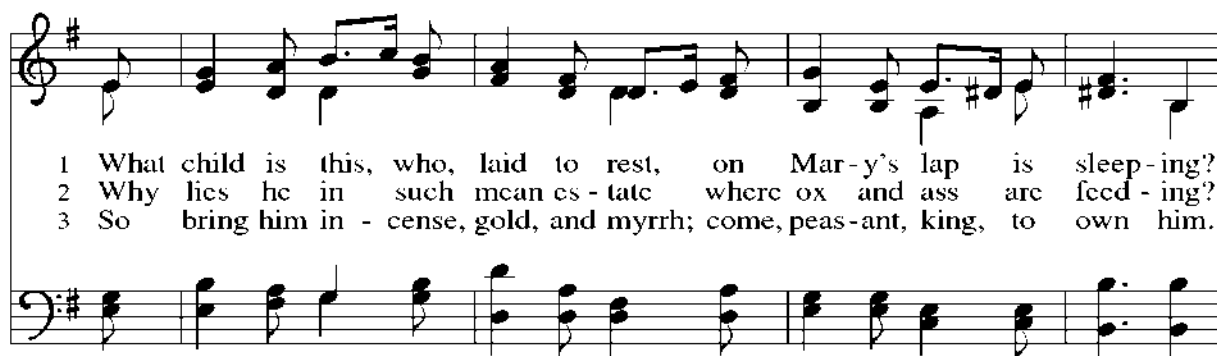
1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

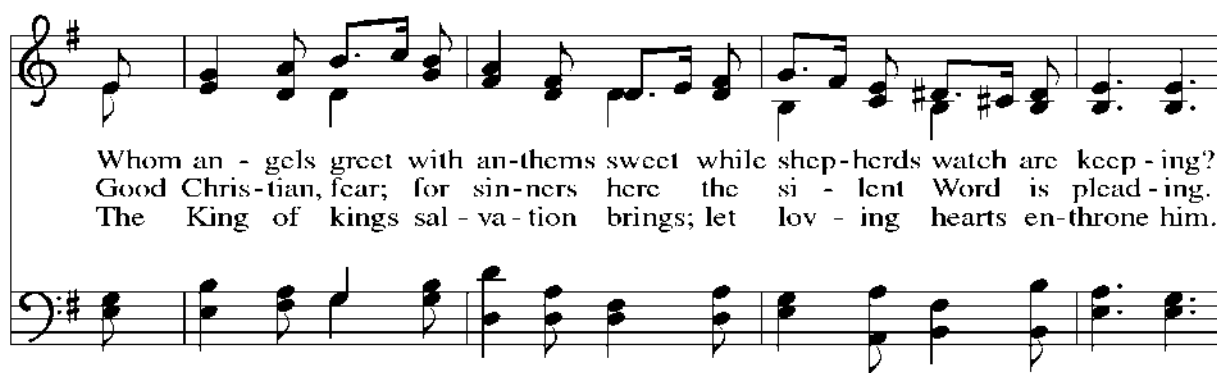
Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

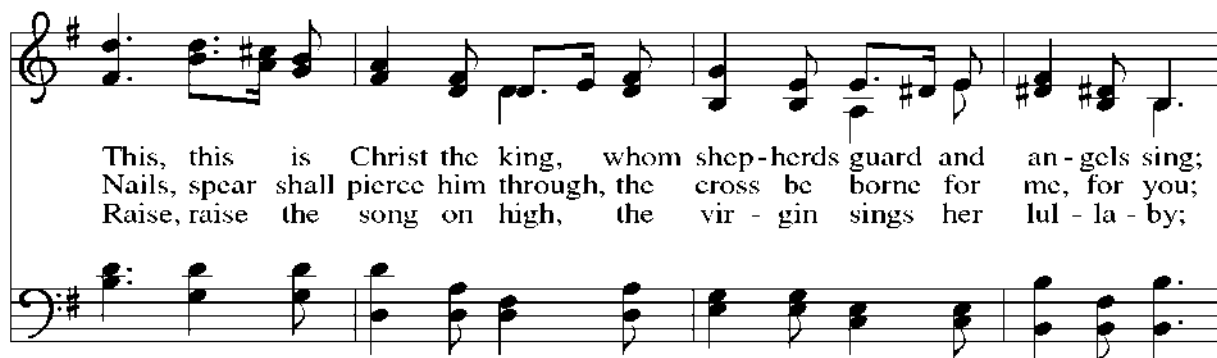
What Child Is This ELW 296



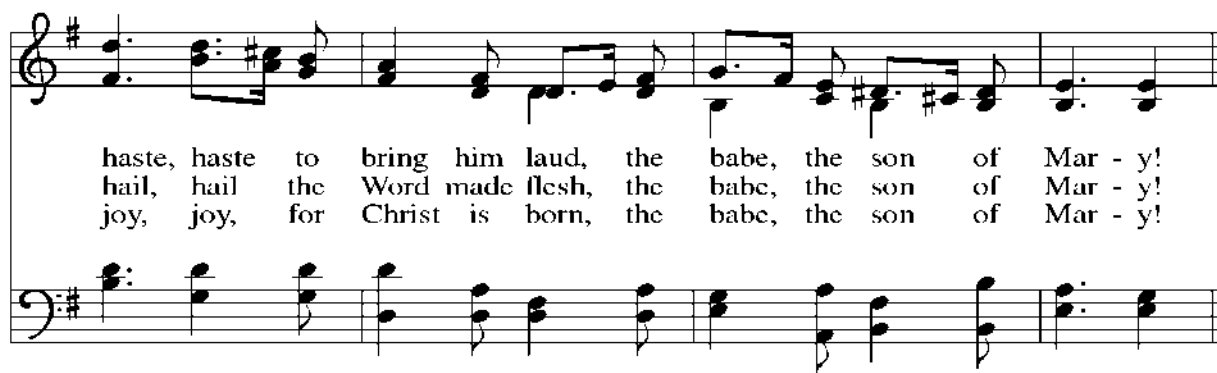
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



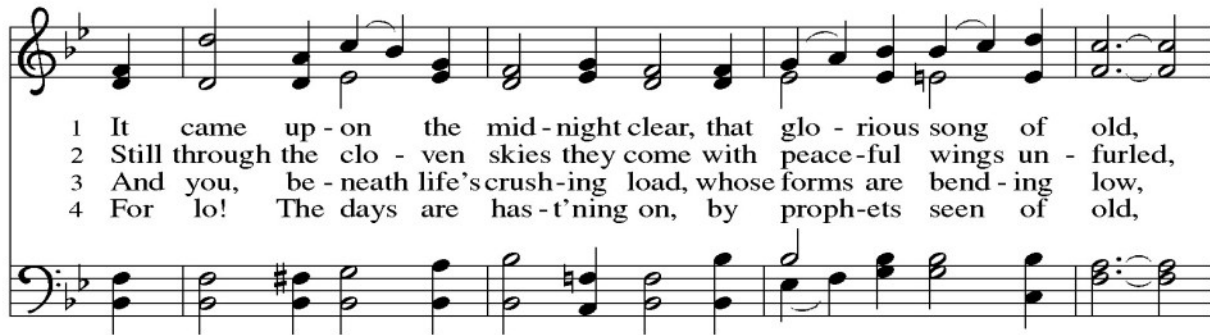
This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



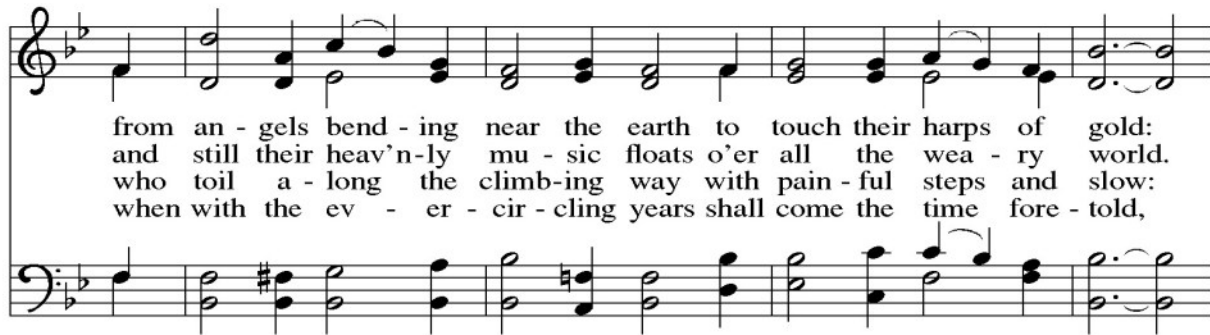
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

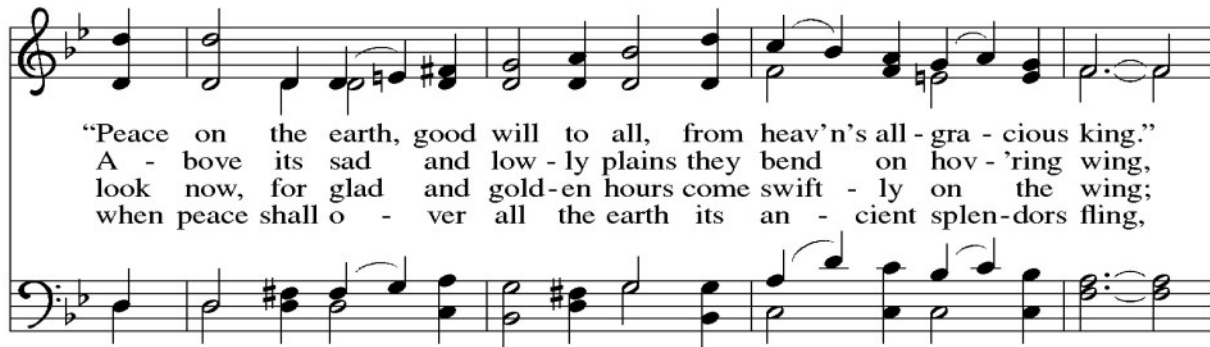
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear ELW 282



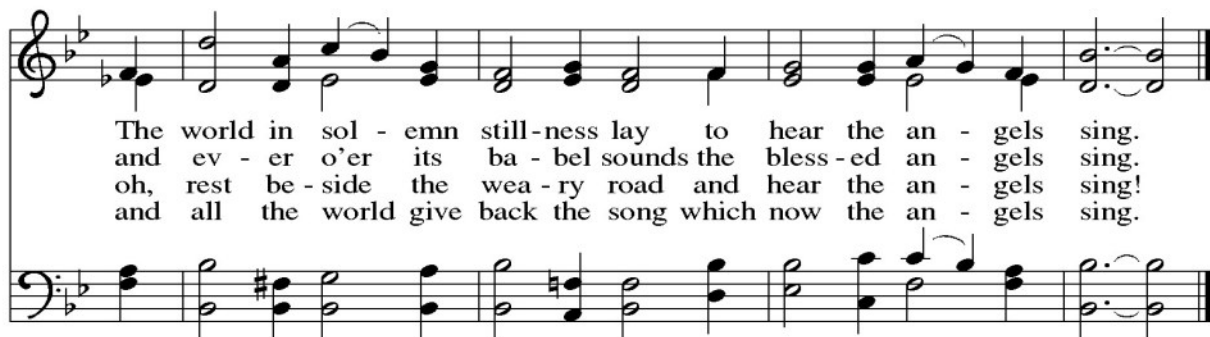
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



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.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

P On Christmas Eve we remember that Jesus is the Light of the World that came in the dark on night. We do this by lighting candles and singing of his birth. Jesus is the Light of the world, a light no darkness can overcome.

Light candles

***Silent Night, Holy Night!* ELW 281**

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.

BLESSING

P The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

C **Amen.**



SENDING SONG

Go Tell It on the Mountain ELW 267

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Refrain

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: *Jean Warren*

Greeter: *Jane Foskett*

Usher: *Jim Foskett*

Reader: *Sandy Betley*

Sound: *Jeremy Magoon*

Streamer: *Paul Warren*



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, Delaware 19707

(302) 239-6481 office@glcde.org www.glcde.org

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The people of Grace Lutheran Church, Ministers

The Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian