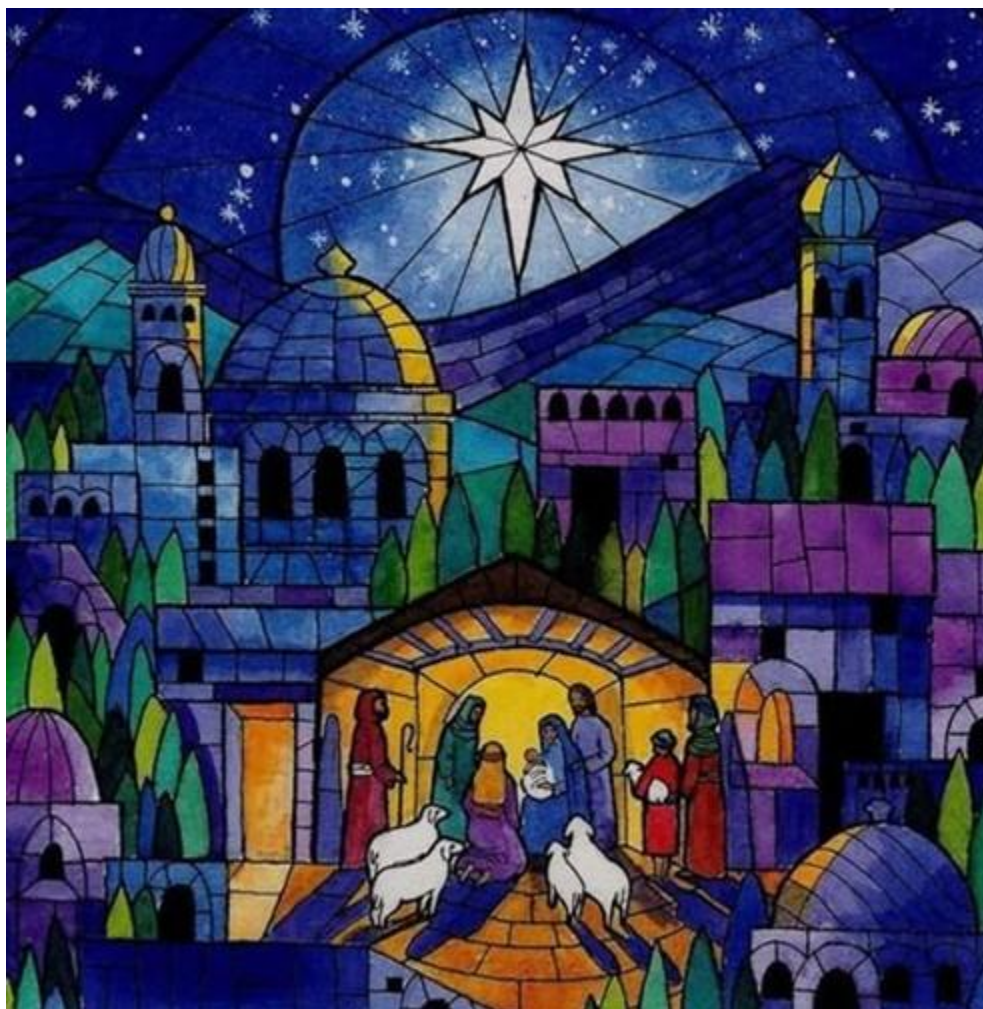


# *The Nativity of Our Lord*

## *Christmas Eve*

*December 24th, 2025*



*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

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## *WELCOME CHILDREN OF GOD TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.*

*Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.*

*Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.*

*\*Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

*The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.*

### PRELUDE

*Gesù Bambino* (Child Jesus)  
trumpet & organ

Pietro A. Yon  
(1886-1943)

*Silent Night*  
harp

Frank Gruber  
(1787-1863)

*A La ru*  
A Latin American Christmas Song  
choir, piano, flute & trumpet

arr. John Donald Robb &  
Richard Proulx

### CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth  
and then formed man and woman in his own image;  
long after the great flood,  
when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;  
twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;  
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt  
and Miriam danced in freedom;  
eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;  
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,  
in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;  
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;  
while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,  
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,  
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,  
being conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother —  
now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
God made flesh.  
Emmanuel; God with us.

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,  
 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!

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

## \*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Glory to God*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**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**

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!*

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.

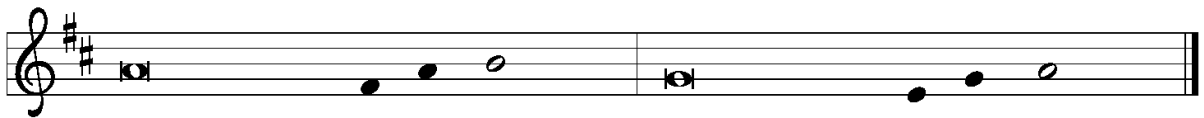
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



## Refrain



## Tone



- <sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord | a new song;  
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup>**Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;  
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- <sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup>**For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,  
more to be feared | than all gods. R**
- <sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.
- <sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord. R**
- <sup>9</sup>Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.
- <sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The | Lord is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the  
peo- | ples with equity."**
- <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is  
therein.
- <sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord,  
for you come to | judge the earth.**
- <sup>13</sup>You will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

## SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

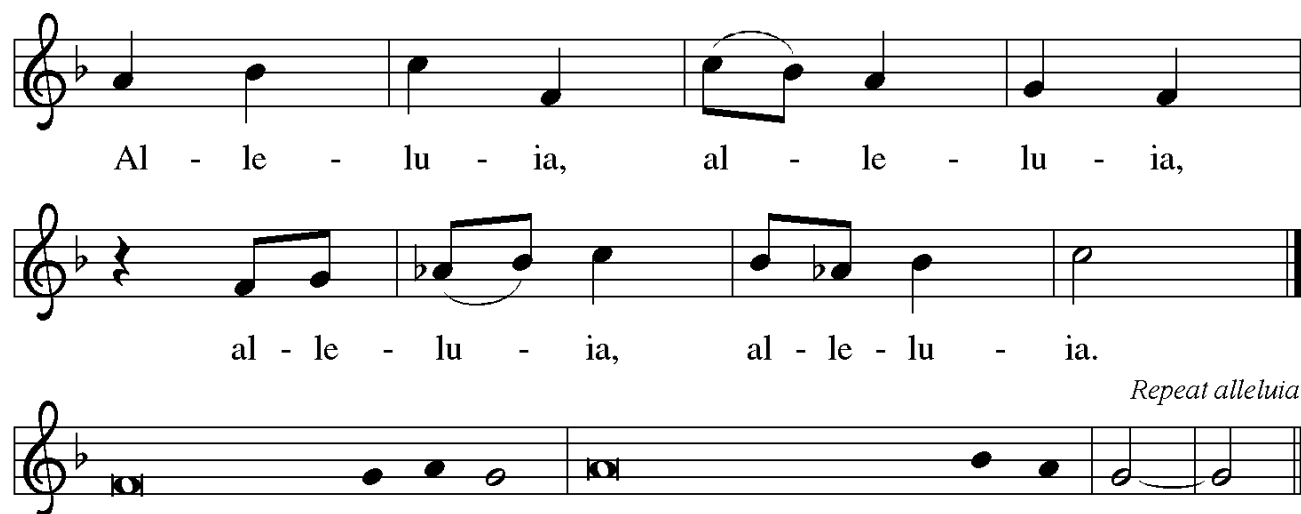
*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

A reading from Titus:

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

*Repeat alleluia*

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 Messi- | ah, the Lord.  
(Luke 2:10-11)





## \*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:1-20

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

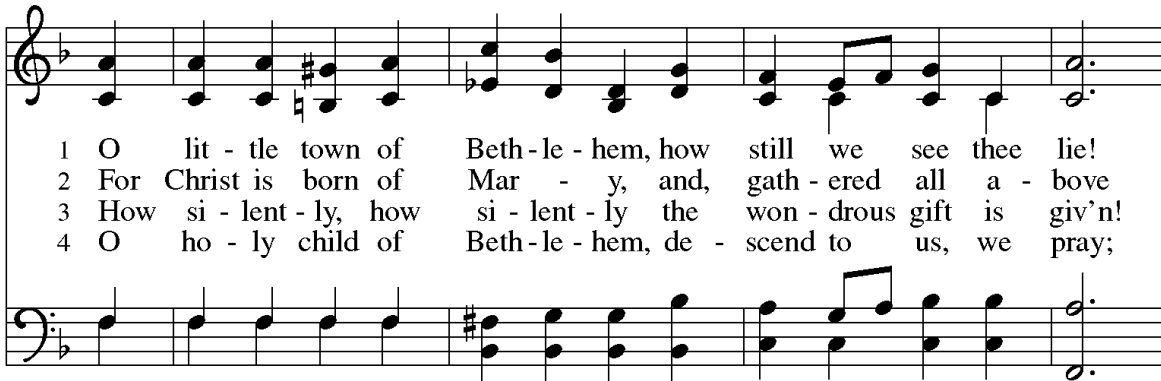
The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

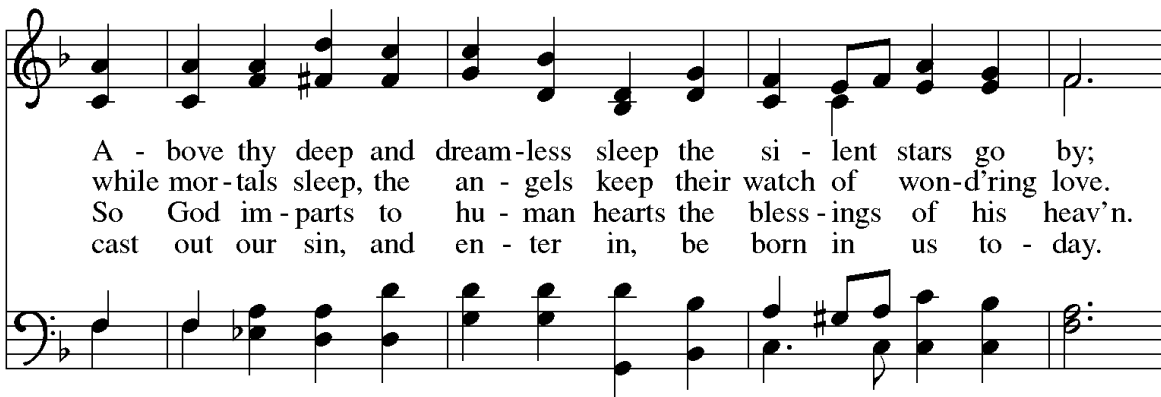
The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

## HOMILY

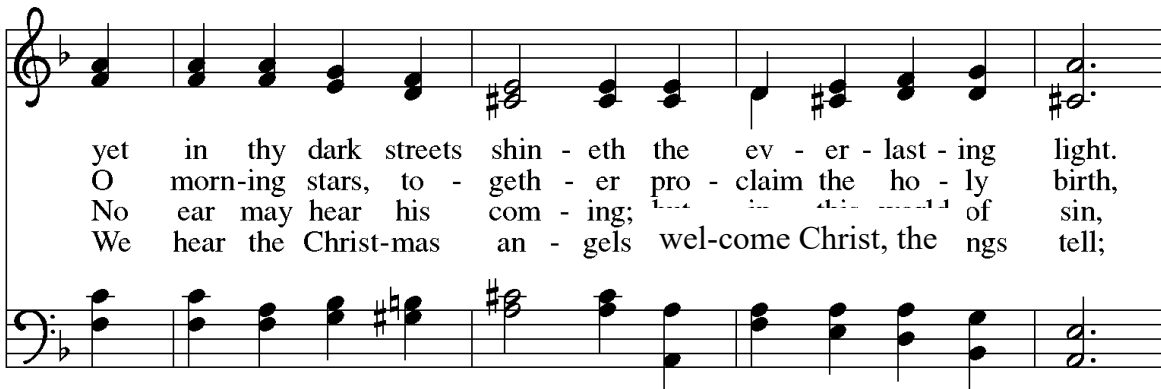




1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 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.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing;  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels wel - come Christ, the ngs tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## \*NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope we confess what we believe.

**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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

*The assisting minister prays the petition. The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy with: "**hear our prayer.**" and those that end "O, God we give you thanks" with: "**Thanks be to God**" The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "**Amen.**"*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O, God we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

Into your hands... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## MEAL

## \*SHARING THE PEACE

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

## OFFERING ANTHEM

*Calypso Christmas*

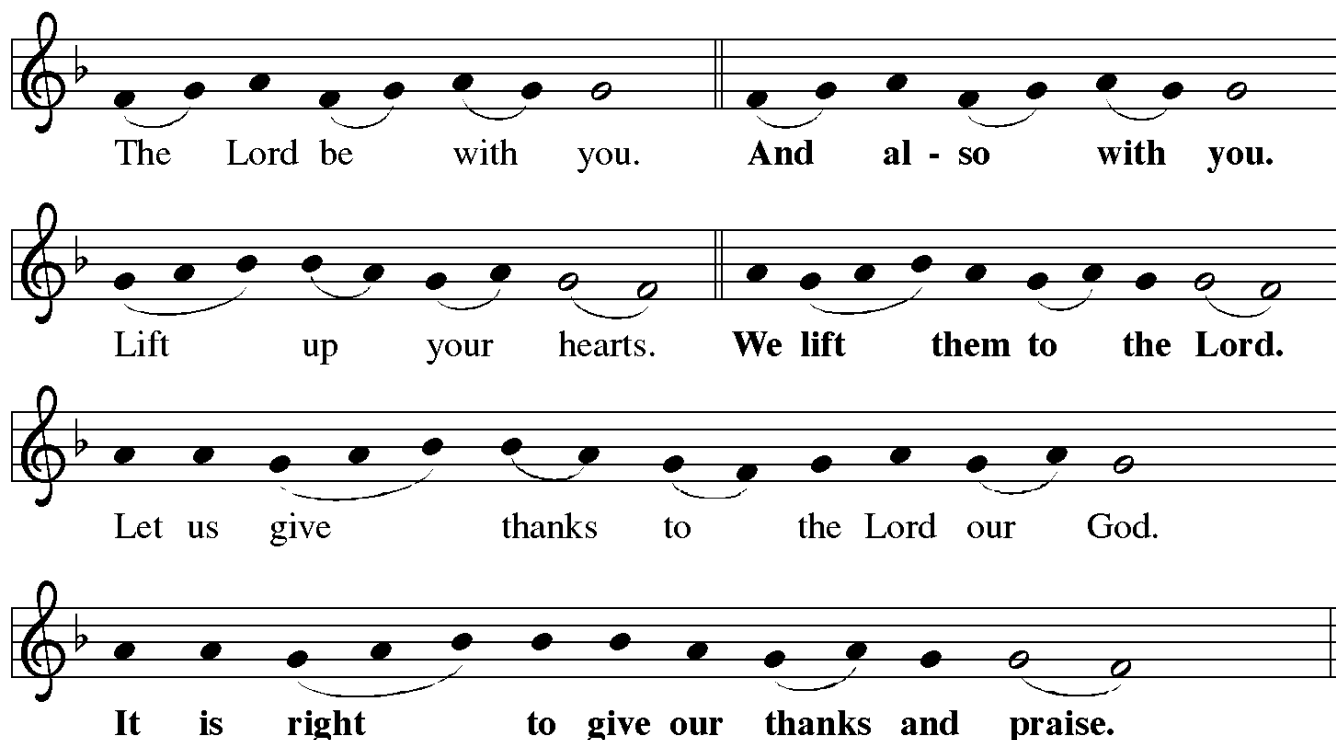
Natalie Sleeth

Down in the town of Bethlehem, Into a world full of woe,  
Jesus the Savior, He cam to earth, Though it was long time ago.  
Up in the heav'n the angels sang; "Glory to God" filled the air;  
Shepherds were glad when they heard the song, Echoing praise ev'rywhere!  
**What a wonder, what a joy! What a day of joy!**  
**God has sent a baby boy! God has sent a boy!**  
**What a happy Christmas morn, when the Savior was born!**  
High in the sky of Bethlehem, Into the dark of the night,  
God put a star for a light divine, Set it to shining so bright. (...with radiance so bright)  
Kings of the Orient went where it led, Found then the Child in a poor manger bed.  
Welcome the baby once again, Welcome him here on the earth,  
Welcome the baby today as then, Let us rejoice in His birth!  
Come and joyfully sing as the angels, all adore, Follow Him forevermore!

## \*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## \*PREFACE DIALOGUE



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.

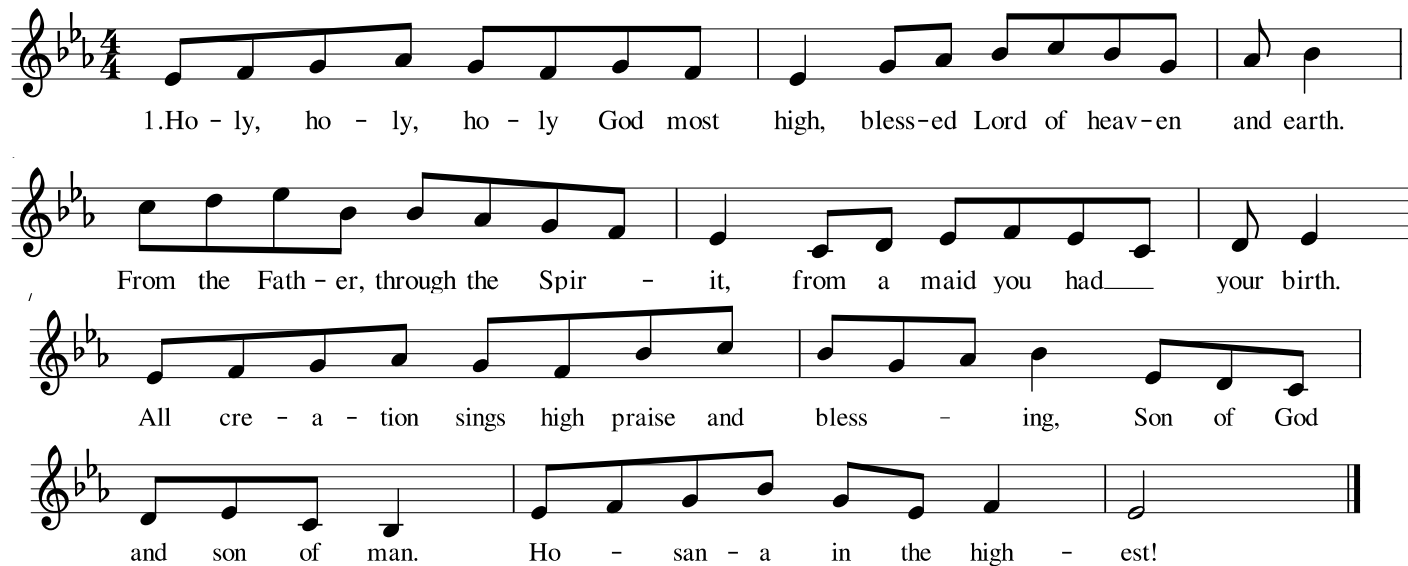
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed ... unending hymn:

# SANCTUS

(Tune: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*)



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God most high, bless-ed Lord of heav-en and earth.

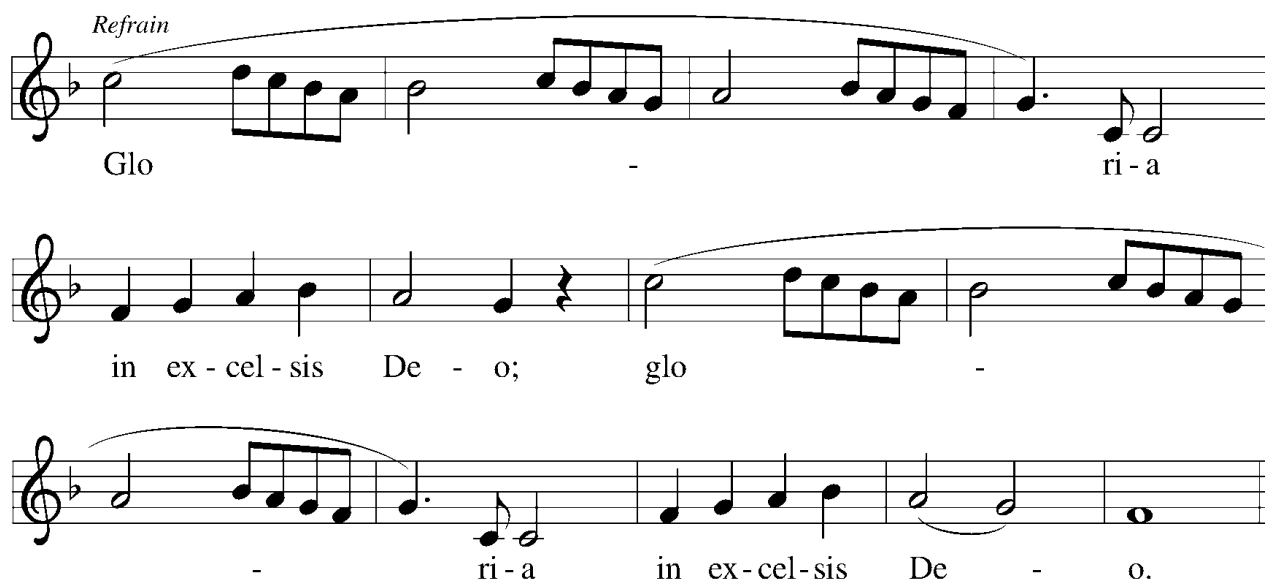
From the Fath - er, through the Spir - it, from a maid you had your birth.

All cre - a - tion sings high praise and bless - ing, Son of God

and son of man. Ho - san - a in the high - est!

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Glory to you, Lord God, heavenly King... all the heavenly choir.



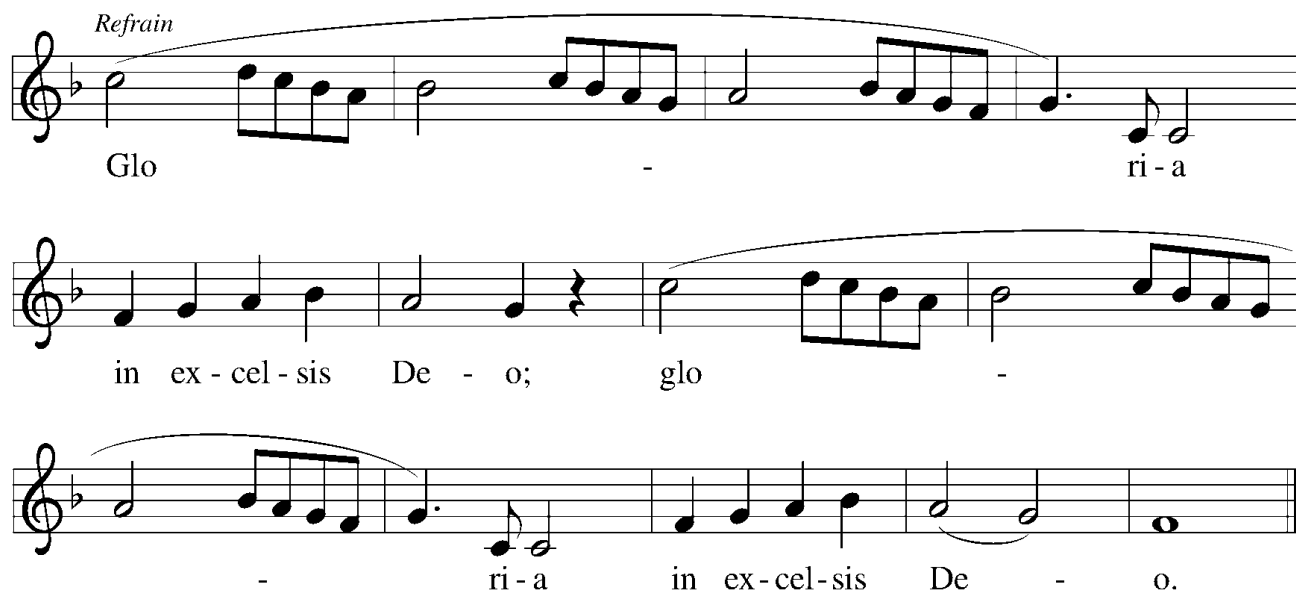
*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

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

Glory to you, Lord God, heavenly King...praise forever more.



### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

With boldness and confidence, we 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**

### \*COMMUNION INVITATION

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

### ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

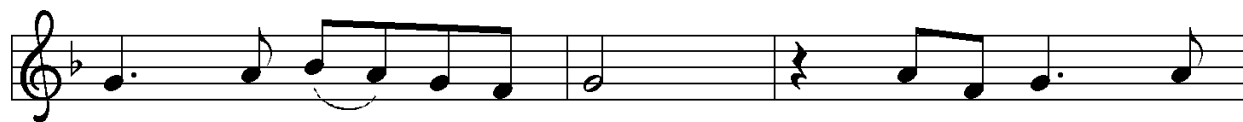
### *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



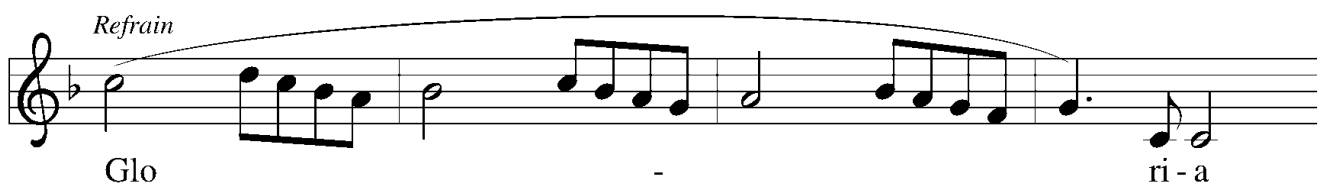
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Choir, with congregation joining in on refrain



## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621



## PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

*Those not receiving communion are invited to pray the following while communion is being distributed:*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. When I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy. Amen.

### \*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*CANDLE LIGHTING

*Please remain standing for the lighting of the individual candles. The minister will come down the center and side aisle to light the candle of the first person in each pew. To light your candle, tilt the wick of the **unlit** candle into the flame of the burning candle until the flame catches.*

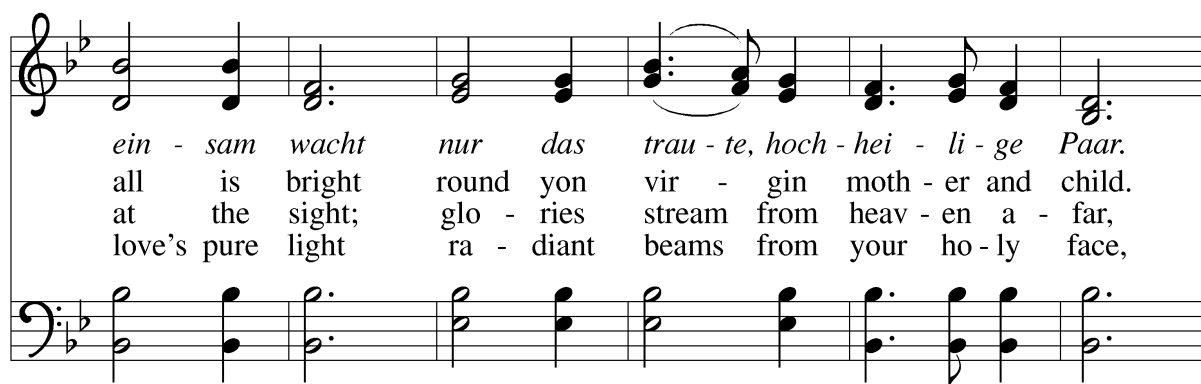


# \*SILENT NIGHT

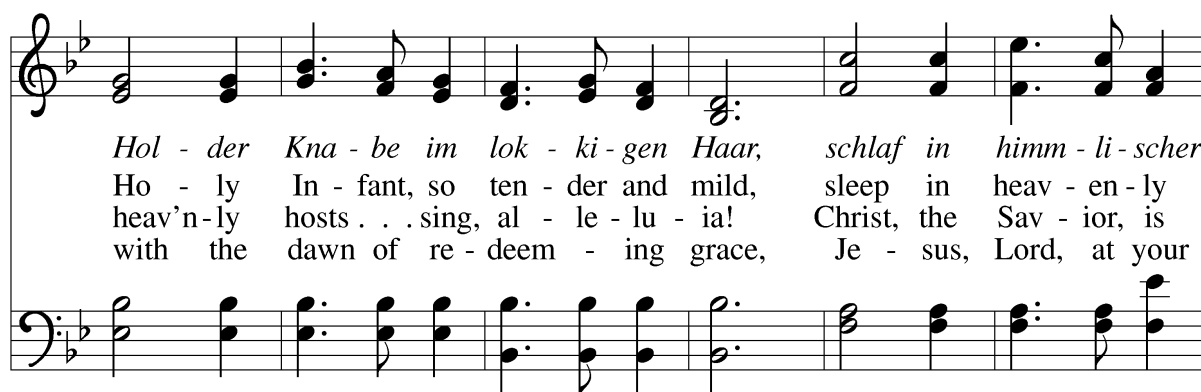
(sung in English, beginning at verse 1)



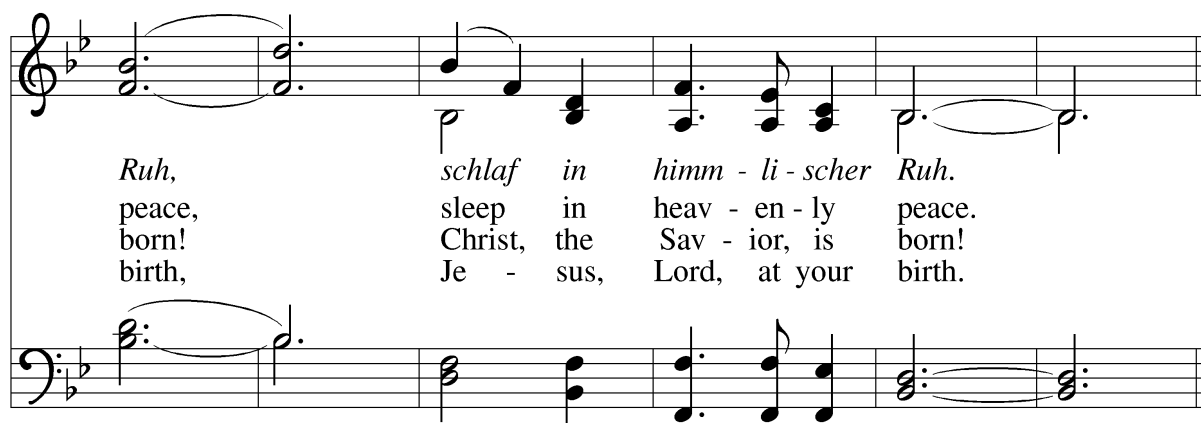
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li-ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## \*BENEDICTION

May the child born for us grow in our hearts, may his authority shape our lives and our world, and may his justice and righteousness transform our sorrows and our fears; for he who is the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, is also the Prince of Peace. May this almighty, yet gentle God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is born. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*POSTLUDE

Evening Noël

Jacques Berthier  
(1923-1994)

*Die Wurde (La Majesté)*

G.P. Telemann  
(1681-1767)

Thank you to our choir, musicians, tech staff and worship assistants.  
Special thank you to Linda Obedzinski, harp, Dylan Prothro, trumpet  
and Emma Ross, flute.





## Celebrate Christmas with Us!

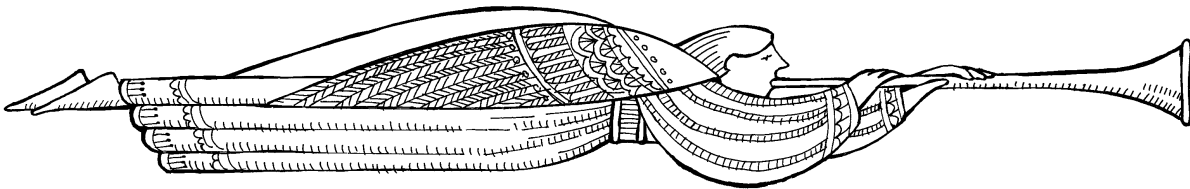
### Thursday, December 25

9:00am Nativity of Our Lord Communion Service

### Sunday, December 28

9:00am Communion Service of Lessons & Carols  
Followed by Coffee Hour  
Sponsored by Godfellas

Please note that there are NO Weekday Matins or Vespers December 24 - January 5.



[www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org](http://www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org)  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/stmarkglastonbury>  
<https://www.facebook.com/lutheranchurchofstmark>



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

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