

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

GATHERING MUSIC

He Is Born
Handbell Choir

C.E. Walz

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL

You are invited to stand as you are able.

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. **Amen.**

Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In [☩] Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL CAROL ELW 267

Joy to the World

Antioch

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns!
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
 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.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

GREETING

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

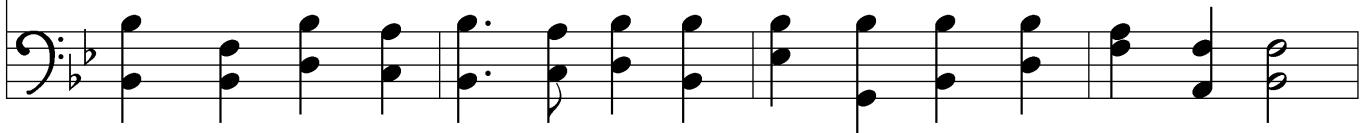
HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

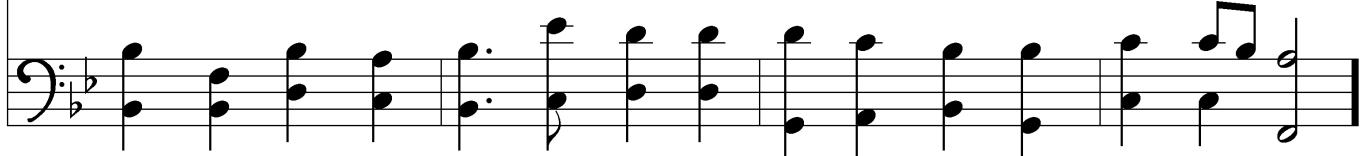
Regent Square



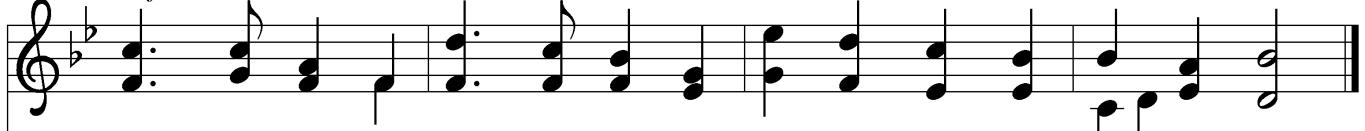
An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



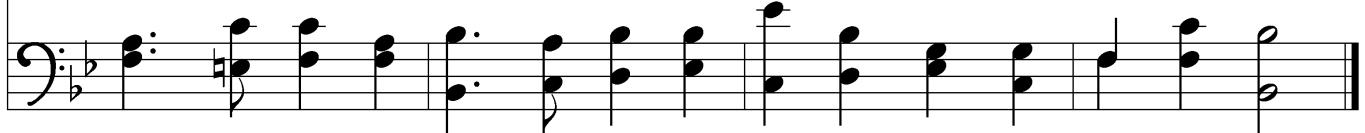
once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

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.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

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.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Shannon Schubert, soloist

Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne

THE PSALM

Psalm 96 (*read responsively*)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,**
more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**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 peoples with equity."

¹¹Let 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.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,**
for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Ave Maria

Sandy Dunn, piano
Cassie Todd, vocalist

Franz Schubert

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

We stand and sing as the Gospel Procession begins:

PROCESSIONAL CAROL ELW 276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

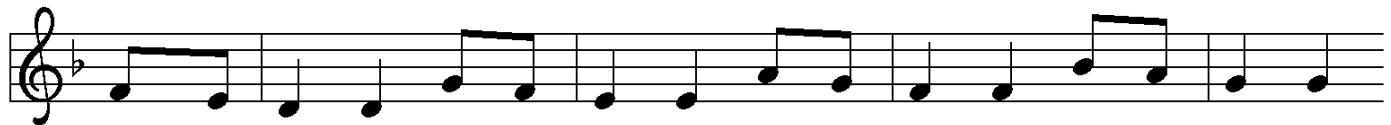
Polish carol



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

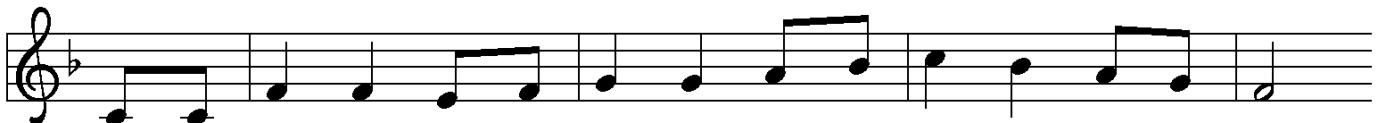
Praise to you, O Christ.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL ELW 276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

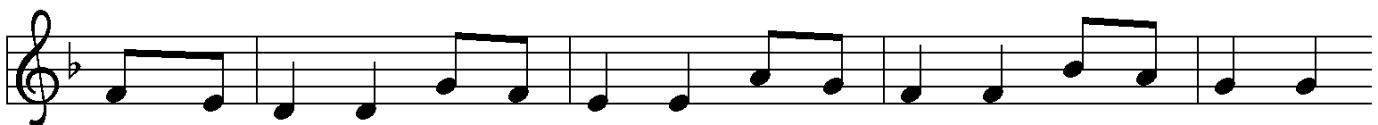
Polish carol



2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



saw the glo-ry, heard the sto-ry, tid-ings of a gos-pel true.



Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

SERMON

Silence for Reflection

CAROL ELW 270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

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 you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

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

NICENE CREED

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

*Lower case "c" means universal.

THE PRAYERS

You are invited to either sit or kneel.

The response to each prayer will be *God of grace, hear our prayer.*

THE MEAL

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING (Sit)

Support the mission and ministry of Gloria Dei by giving your financial tithes and offerings by:

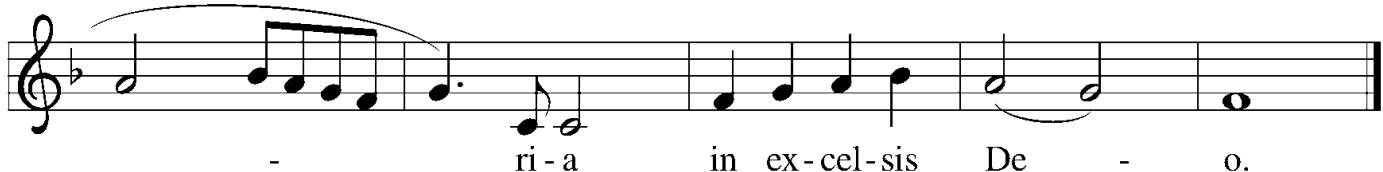
- placing your offering envelope into the offering plate as it is passed.
- mailing to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 250 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669.
- using the Tithe.ly app: <https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>.
- using online bill pay with your own banking institution, use your envelope number as your account number.

For electronic offerings, see back page for QR codes.

CHOIR CAROL

Were You There on That Christmas Night?

Natalie Sleeth

OFFERTORY CAROL ELW 289 (Stand) Angels We Have Heard on High*Gloria**Refrain***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together:

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

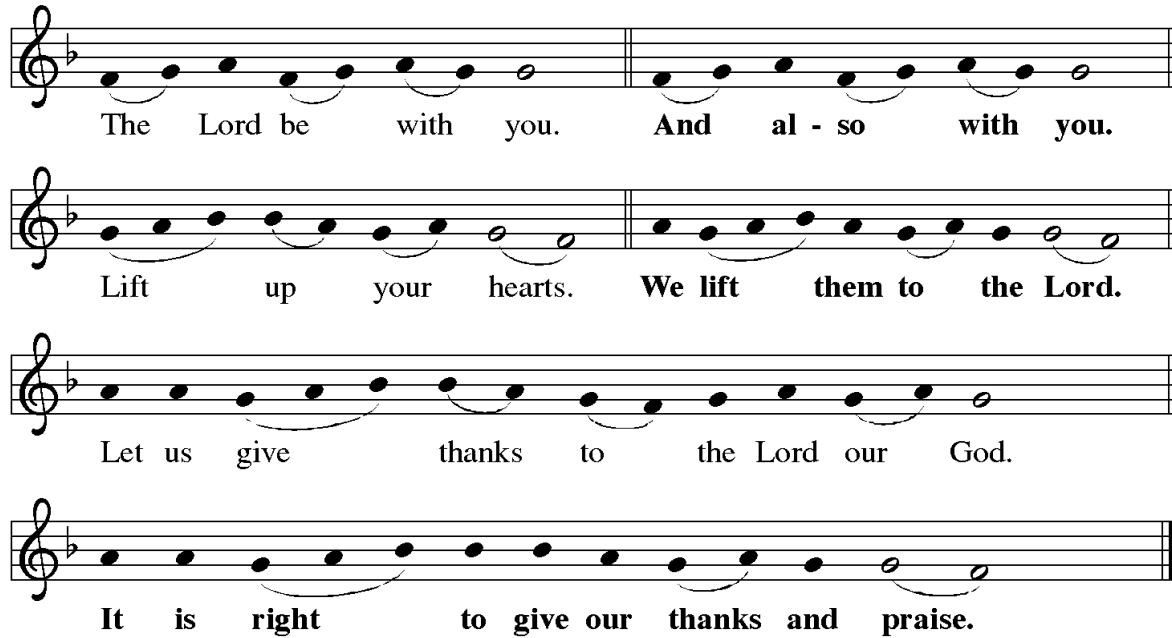
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,

through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

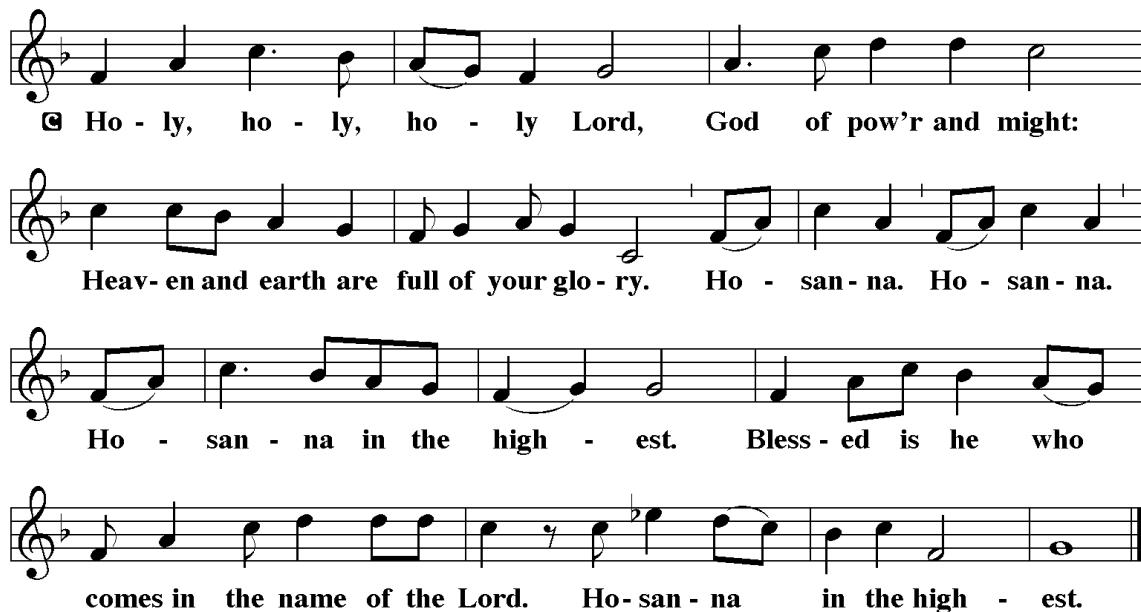
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav- en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give you thanks, Father,
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,
through whom you created all things,
and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

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.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his birth, life, death and resurrection,
we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on Earth.
Come to the table of peace.

*We believe that in the Eucharist our Lord Jesus Christ
offers us His gifts of love and forgiveness. All are welcome to share in Communion.
If you would like to receive communion by common cup instead of individual cups of wine or grape juice, after
you consume your wafer, hold your hands out (palms up), just like you did for your wafer.*

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

O Holy Night

Sandy Dunn, piano
Ruth Hutchison, vocalist

Adolphe Adam

COMMUNION CAROL ELW 279

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
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; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings 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!

COMMUNION MUSIC

Bread of Life

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain.

Refrain

"And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

COMMUNION CAROL ELW 282 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol



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 CAROL ELW 296

What Child Is This

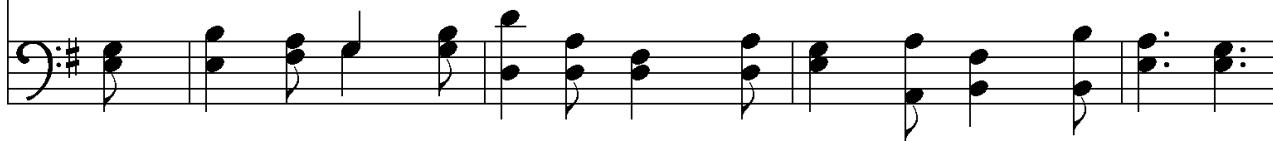
Greensleeves



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.



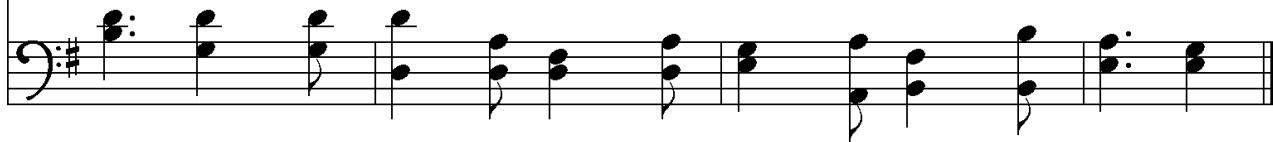
Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.



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!



SENDING

BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL (*Stand as you are able.*)

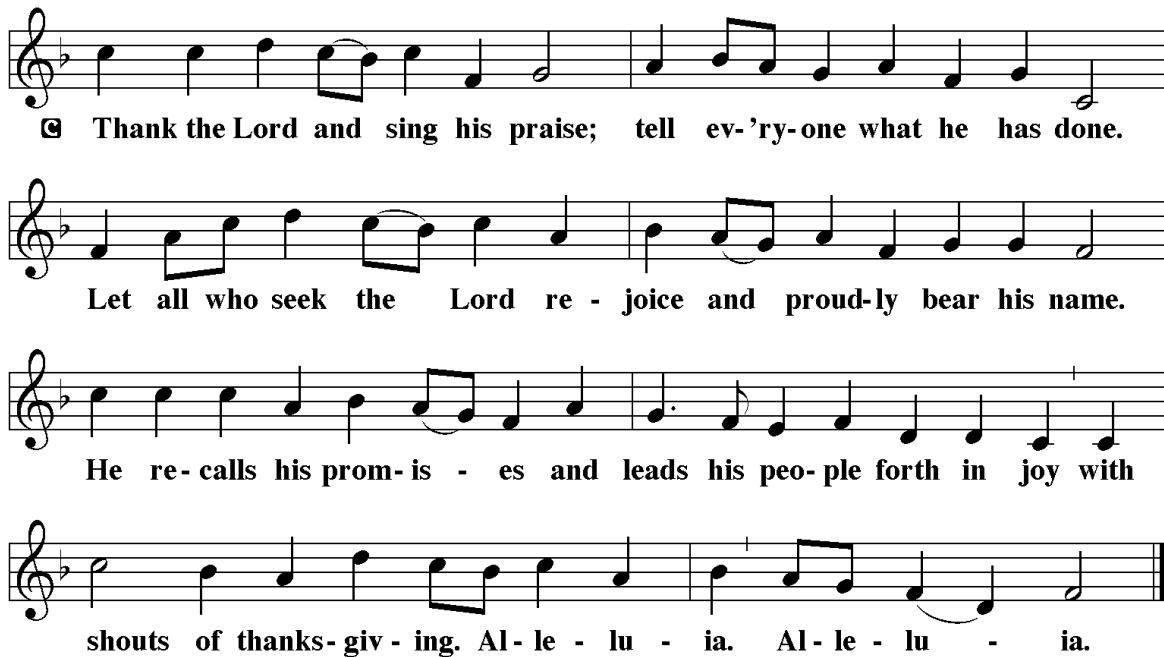
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



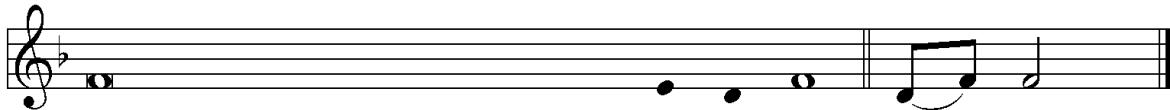
C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev- 'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proudly bear his name.

He re- calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks- giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

BENEDICTION



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 A - men

GOSPEL OF LIGHT

John 1:1-14

The torches will pass down the center aisle. Those who are seated closest to the center will need to move toward the torch and light your candle, turn and share your light with others in your pew.

*****Important*** Tip the unlit candle into the lit candle.**

SENDING CAROL ELW 281

Silent Night, Holy Night
Derry Mace, acoustic guitar

Stille Nacht

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.

EXTINGUISH CANDLES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

Please take this time to ponder what Christ may be calling you/us to do through today's prayers, readings, sermons, and hymns as we listen to the postlude. If you are particularly moved by the Postlude, please hold your applause and congratulate the musician in person after worship.

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Flor Peeters



To the Glory of God

Anonymous
Tom Clasen
Tad and Rita Foringer

Jim and Jeane Fullen
Chip and Dawn Lomax, III
Craig Peterson

Jack Adams

In memory of Marie L. Adams

In honor of Ashley, Michael, Micaela, Jacob, and Isabella
Spencer, Maya, Emily, Aaliyah, Lochlan, and Lincoln

In honor of Richard, Stephanie, Sophia, and James Williams
In honor of Nick, Sarah, Harper, and Luke Griese

In memory of Henry and Ruth Jurgens, Henry Jurgens, Jr.
Miles and Betsy Haberman, and William Schulze

Vivian Griese

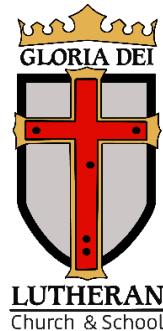
Bob and Nancy Haberman

Joy Hough
Chip and Dawn Lomax, III
Derry and Mary Mace

Ann Myers
Mike and Ann Riley
Aaron and Jenny Sutherland

In memory of Pastor Stowe
In honor of Chip's mom, Suzie Marcucci
In memory of Betty and Bill Mace
In memory of Charles Bobb
In honor of Fred Bradley
In honor of John Henry and Joanna
In memory of Travis and Gay Brown



**Cross and Crown**

Ollie Fox
Dakota Jenkins
Micaela Ruhl
Jacob Zamora

Greeter

Linda Sutherland

Lay Assistant

Rita Foringer

Reader

Rita Foringer

Technical Team

Jeremiah Green
Barry Hutchison
Derry Mace
Mike Riley
Aaron Sutherland
Jenny Sutherland

Ushers

Tom Clasen
Jason Green
Tim Olson
Peggy Todd

*The flowers this evening are given to the glory of God by
John and Carolyn Campbell in celebration of Sammie Campbell's birthday.*

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