



Because of
his grace he
declared us
righteous
and gave us
confidence
that we will
inherit
eternal
life.

- Titus 3:4-7 NLT -

 heartlight.org

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023
9:00 p.m.

Pastor Willie Rosin's Email
Pastor Willie Rosin' Cell
Zion's Office Email
Zion's Phone Number

pastorwillie.rosin@gmail.com
320-444-7277
zionmuscatine@gmail.com
563-263-5074

Presiding Minister – Rev. Willie Rosin
Assisting Minister – Peggy Starkweather
Music Minister – Charles Potter
Holy Communion Everlasting Light Liturgy Setting

A very merry Christmas to all who come to worship the Christ Child.

Our liturgy this evening is the special Eucharist from which comes the word Christmas. It is the Christ Mass, the incarnation of our Lord and Savior: in a manger in Bethlehem, in the Word of proclamation, in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and in our hearts as we take him into the world.

Ancient prayers and ancient scripture combine with candles, carols, and bright array to tell the story of the Christ Child's birth in the quiet of this special night. In the intimacy and anticipation of the coming of our Lord, we meditate by the manger, and in awe adore him as the infant God and King.

At Zion Lutheran Church we practice open communion for all of the baptized body of Christ. All who are baptized and believe in Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to celebrate Holy Communion with us tonight.

This evening we will worship using candlelight while singing *Silent Night*. We will pass the light from the Christ candle to the congregation. Please dip the unlit candle into the lighted candle to prevent the hot wax from dripping on hands, clothing, or pews. Battery-powered candles are available for children or those who would prefer to use them. Thank you for joining God's community of faith gathered at Zion Lutheran church as we celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord! Please join us for worship again!

PRELUDE ***Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*** Paul Kickstat **Charles Potter**
From Heaven Above **Johann Pachelbel**
Sing We Now of Christmas **Raymond H. Haan**
O Come, All Ye Faithful **Gerhard Krapf**

‡ **GATHERING** ‡

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

BELL CALLING US TO WORSHIP

INTROIT

Now it is Christmas Time

Zion Choir

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be on his shoulder; and his name shall be called wonderful, mighty counselor, the Prince of peace. O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he has done marvelous things. Glory be to the father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen

+ 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 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

DIALOG FOR CHRISTMAS

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God, you were before time began and came into the world to save us.

Blessed are you, Sun of Righteousness, you shine with the Father's love and illumine the whole universe.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary; born a child, you shared our humanity.
Let heaven and earth ring out their praise.

O Mystery of the Word made flesh, with all the voices of heaven, we celebrate your coming as our Savior.
Let men and women and angels sing of your glory.

O Splendor the Father's Light, with all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at your birth.
Praise and honor and glory to you, O Incarnate Word.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Gently P

Light the can-dle of CHRIST to-day, the Giv-er of light is
here! Wel-come the light we watch and hope for, but
on - ly Christ can give. Flick - er and flame and
glow with light, light up the world a - round you.
Flick-er and flame and glow with light, light up the world a -
round you.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It begins with a tempo marking of 'Gently P'. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

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

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

PSALM 96

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.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 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. Lord to wh-om shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia al - le - lu - ia. Lord to wh-om shall we go?
Yo - u bring the words of e - ternal life to yo-ur peo-ple
Al - le - lu - - - ia Al - le - lu - - - ia

+ GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20

The holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

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. 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. 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. 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. 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." 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!" 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. 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. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

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

+ 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.

+ LITANY AND PRAYERS FOR THE CHRIST MASS:

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

To us you have brought abundant joy.

Before you we rejoice and sing.

O God, to whom glory is sung in the highest while on earth peace is proclaimed to all people of goodwill, grant that goodwill to us, your servants. Cleanse us from all our sins and give perpetual peace to us and to all people; through your mercy, O God, who blesses and governs all things, now and forever.

Amen.

Tomorrow the iniquity of the earth shall be blotted out.

And the Savior of the world shall reign over us.

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

For those abiding in the land of death, a new splendor has appeared.

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world.; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Today for our sake, the King of heaven is born of a virgin mother:

To reclaim the lost for the heavenly kingdom.

All the angels cry aloud with joy:

For God has come himself to save all humanity.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

‡ **MEAL** ‡

God feeds us with the presence of Christ

Thank you for supporting God's ministry and mission through the people of Zion Lutheran Church. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

We have online giving options available through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) which allows you to give through the app, online, and even make weekly, biweekly, or monthly donations on a regular schedule. If you are interested in electronic giving options, please contact the church office.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Little Town of Bethlehem Dennis Janzer

Charles Potter

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

+ DIALOGUE

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.

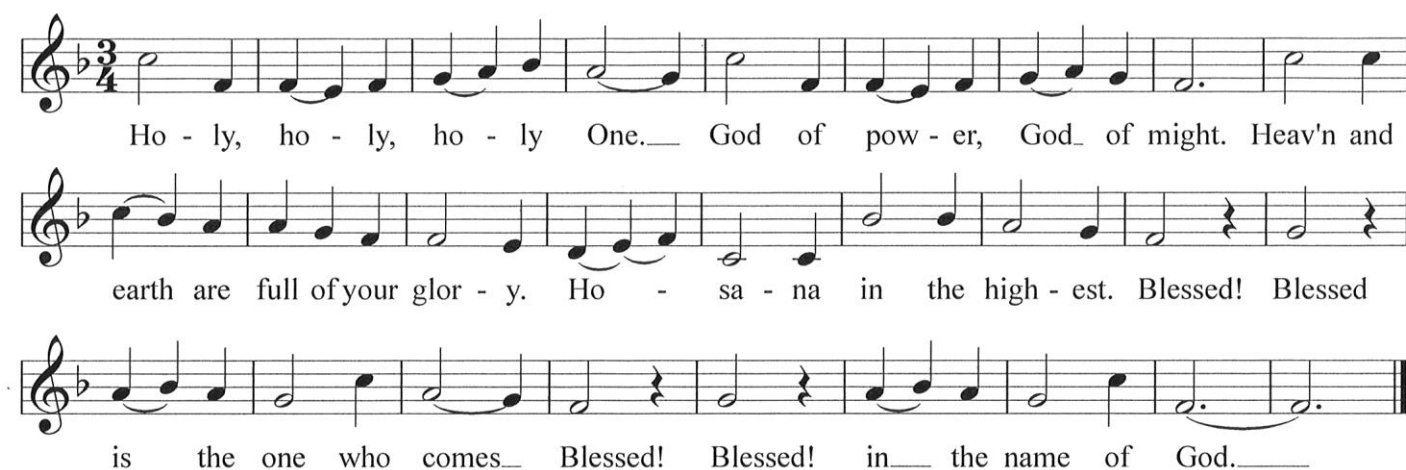
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ PREFACE

At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.... we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God.

Amen.

+ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed
is the one who comes Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION On the night in which he was betrayed...

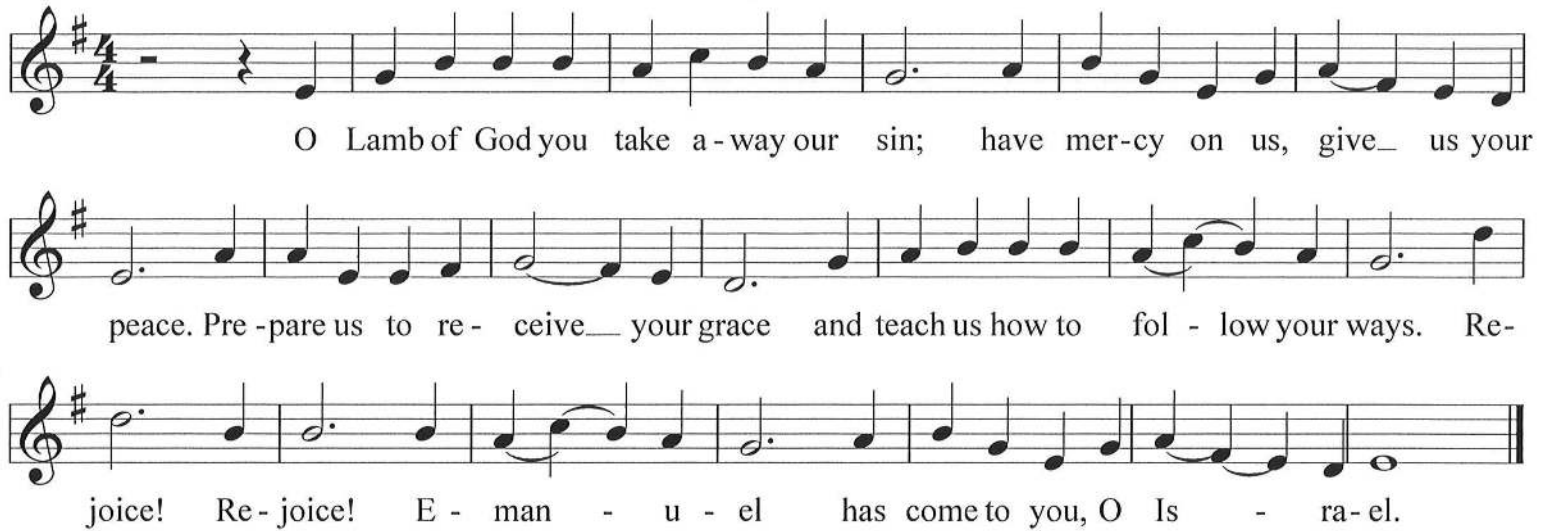
+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give_ us your
peace. Pre -pare us to re - ceive__ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-
joice! Re - joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra - el.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Please come forward for communion as directed. We will serve communion by continuous distribution with one station for bread in the center and a station for wine on each side. Please receive wine from the side on which you are sitting and return to your seat by walking down the side aisle. If you are unable or would prefer not to come forward, please inform one of the ushers and communion will be brought to where you are seated. If you do not wish to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward with arms crossed to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available in the separate small dish on the bread tray. Please let Pastor Willie know if you would like a gluten-free wafer. If you wish to receive grape juice rather than wine, please indicate this preference by approaching the communion server with your hand out and palm down. The grape juice is located in the center ring of the communion tray. All who believe in Christ as Lord and Savior, young and old, are welcome at this feast.



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.



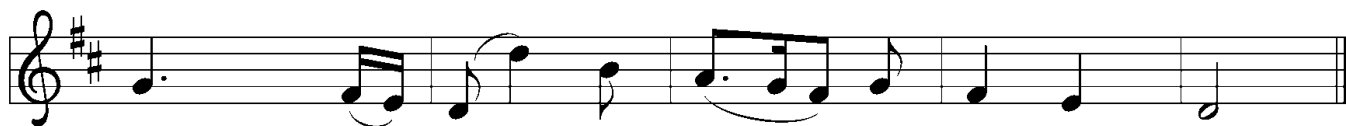
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



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



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.



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 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.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

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.

+ POST COMMUNION BLESSING**+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Jesus, our bright Morning Star, we give you thanks that you have fed us well through the bread and wine of your Supper. May it enable us to shine brightly in all the dark places of our world with your love, justice and peace. We ask this in your holy name.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT

As the ushers pass the light to members of the congregation, pass it to the person next to you. DO NOT TIP a lighted candle. If you or your child(ren) has battery operated lights, now is the time to turn them on and let those lights shine! While the light is being passed, the following will be read.

CANDLELIGHT READING

Reader 1: John 1

Reader 2: Genesis 1

Reader 1: In the beginning was the Word,

Reader 2: *In the beginning when God began to create the heavens and the earth, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep while a spirit from God swept over the face of the waters.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the

darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And God saw that the light was good.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

From the fullness of the Word made flesh we have all received grace upon grace.



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,



Hold - er 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.

‡ **SENDING** ‡

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God; Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

BLESSING ANTHEM

A Christmas Prayer - Martin

Zion Choir

DISMISSAL

The birth of Jesus is the light of God making is home in the world through the Word made flesh. As God's people we know that even when the world's light is dim, Christ's light burns within us. Go! Be light in the darkness!

The light of Christ burns within us!

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

RECESSIONAL HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ELW 270



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!



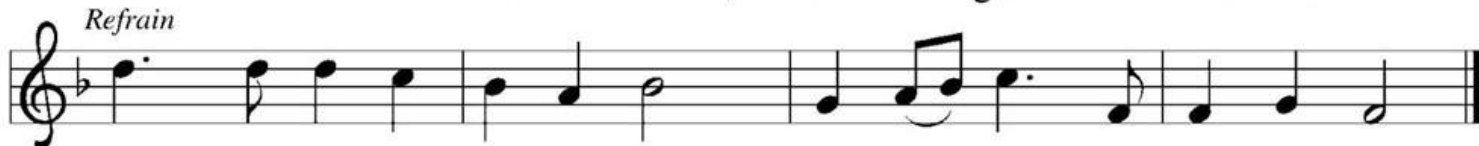
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

POSTLUDE

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hugo Gehrke

Charles Potter

From Heaven Above

Johann Gottfried Walther

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Charles Callahan

Joy to the World!

Hugo Gehrke