



CHRISTMAS

Eve

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Celebrating Our Savior's Birth
A Service of Carols and Candles for
Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023



In Nomine Jesu

+ + +

Prelude

Arpeggio Brass Quintet

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Arr. Roger Harvey
Coventry Carol Arr. Roger Harvey
Away in a Manger WJ Kirkpatrick/R Harvey
Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming Praetorius/Arr. S Frack



Call to Worship

Sing to the Holy Child

Text & Arrangement: Patrick M. Liebergen; Music: based on a Czech Folk Tune and "In Dulci Jubilo"
Jubilate Choir & Arpeggio Music

*Sing to the holy child in the manger, Glory to God above!
Born is the mighty King in the manger, Sing to the Lord of love!
Praise Him forever, sing we together!
Praise Him with singing, hear voices ringing, alleluia!
Angels adore the child in the manger, Glory to God above!
All come before the Lord in the manger, sing to the Lord of love!
Praise Him forever, sing we together!
Praise Him with singing, hear voices ringing, alleluia!
Sing alleluia!
Lift high a joyful song of praise, (Allelu, allelu, alleluia!)
Rejoice with singing all our days. (Allelu, allelu, alleluia!)
Christ the Lord came down to earth, Let all proclaim the blessed birth;
High above the star shines bright where peace and love were brought this night.
Sing with joy, alleluia! Sing to the holy child!
Sing to the holy child in the manger, Glory to God above!
Praise the King of peace and love!*



Opening Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn – "Mendelssohn"; LSB #380 © 2006 CPH



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 ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



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

(Stand)

Invocation

P Hail to our King! Blessed is He!
The new-born King of Whom we sing!
All hail! Let the word go forth throughout the land!

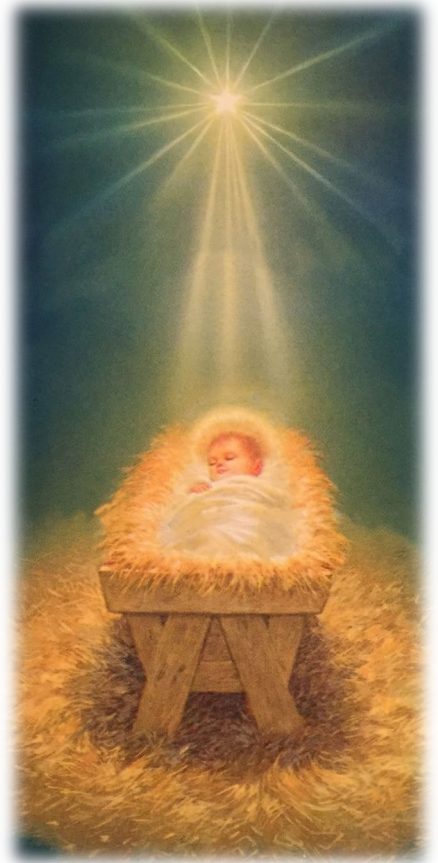
This night is the eve of the great nativity,
Born is the Son of Mary the Virgin,
The souls of His feet have reached the earth,
The Son of Glory, down from on high
Heaven and earth aglow with His light,
All hail! Let us rejoice!

The mountains aglow for Him, the plains aglow for Him,
The voice of the waves with the song of the strand,
Announce to us that the Christ is born!
Son of the Almighty King from heaven's throne;
The sun shines now upon the mountain tops for Him,
All hail! Let us rejoice!

The heavens and the earth rejoice together,
God the Lord has opened the way;
Son of Mary, come now to save us;
Thou Lord of Hope and Prince of Peace,
Golden Sun of hill and mountain,
All Hail! Let us rejoice!

Hail to our King! Blessed is He!
Without beginning and without ending!
Let us rejoice! Our Savior is born!

C *Glory to God in the Highest,
And on earth peace, good will toward men!*



Bidding Prayer

- P** Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe, lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this place glad with the happy sound of our carols and the glittering light of the candles that banish the darkness of night.

Let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which He died, and especially for His people in this congregation and this city. And because this, of all things, would bring joy to His heart, let us remember in His



Name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick, and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who, by sin, have grieved His heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in great light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we are forever one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself has taught us to pray together:

- C** *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*

- P** The Almighty God bless us with His grace; Christ bestow upon us the joys of everlasting life; and may the King of Angels bring us all unto the fellowship of the redeemed in heaven. Amen.

(Be Seated)

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text & Tune: John F. Wade – “Adeste Fideles”; LSB #379 sts. 1, ref, 2–4 © 2006 CPH



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



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



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



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

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(Stand)

Litany of Repentance & Forgiveness

P Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In His light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins. Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned:

C *Forgive and heal us.*

P The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned:

C *Forgive and heal us.*

P Your Son our Savior was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. We have sinned:

C *Forgive and heal us.*

P The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned:

C *Forgive and heal us.*

P The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the king. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned:

C *Forgive and heal us.*

P May Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all of our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us unto life eternal through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Fear not! For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy! Unto you is born this night in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord. He came into this world to pay the penalty for our sin. In His place, and by His command, I forgive you all of your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

C *Thanks be to God! Amen!*



(Be Seated)

Ministry of Music

Masters in This Hall

Words: William Morris; Traditional French Carol arranged by Mark Hayes © 2003 Harold Flammer Music
Jubilate Choir & Arpeggio Music

*Masters in this hall, hear ye news today brought from over sea, and ever I you pray:
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear.*

*Going o'er the hills, through the milk-white snow, heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear.*

*Shepherds many an one sat among the sheep. No man spake more word than they had been asleep.
Quoth I, "Fellows mine, why this guise sit ye, making but dull cheer, shepherds though ye be?"
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear.*

*Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing. Thus to see ye sit is a right strange thing.
Quoth these fellows then, "To Bethl'em town we go to see a mighty Lord lie in manger low."
Therein did we see a sweet and goodly may and a fair old man, upon the straw she lay,
And a little child on her arm had she. "Wot ye who this is?" said the hinds to me.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear.*

*This is Christ, the Lord, masters, be ye glad! Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we loud! God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud!*

Old Testament Lesson

Micah 5:2–5

[2] But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. [3] Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. [4] And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. [5] And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Text: Phillips Brooks; Tune: Lewis H. Redner – "St. Louis"; LSB #361 © 2006 CPH



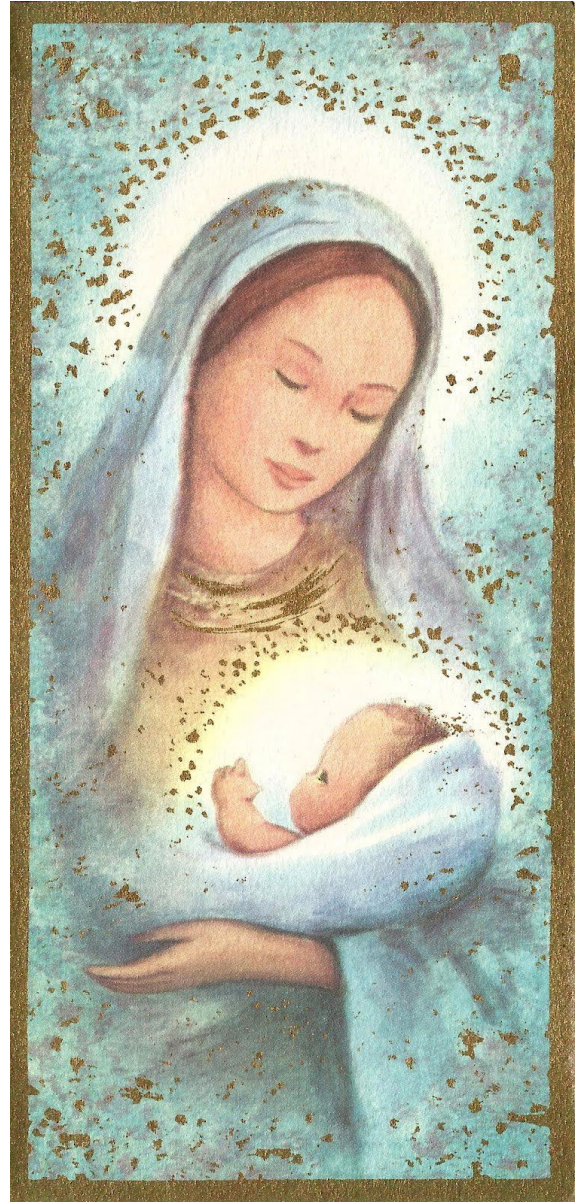
Epistle Lesson

Galatians 3:26–4:7

[26] For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. [27] For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. [4:1] I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, [2] but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. [3] In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. [4] But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6] And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" [7] So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C *Thanks be to God.*



Hymn

What Child Is This

Text: William C. Dix; Tune: English, 16th cent. – “Greensleeves”; LSB #370 © 2006 CPH



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
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!

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(Stand)

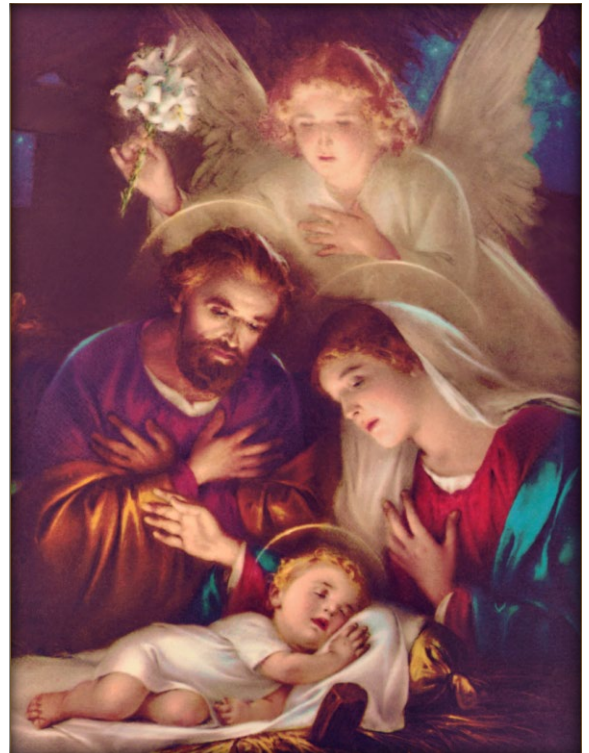
Gospel Lesson

St. Luke 2:1–20

[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] And all went to be registered, each to his own town. [4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, [5] to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. [6] And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. [7] And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. [8] And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [10] And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12] And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, [14] “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” [15] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” [16] And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. [17] And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. [18] And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. [19] But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. [20] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Christmas Gospel.

C *Thanks be to God.*



(Be Seated)

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

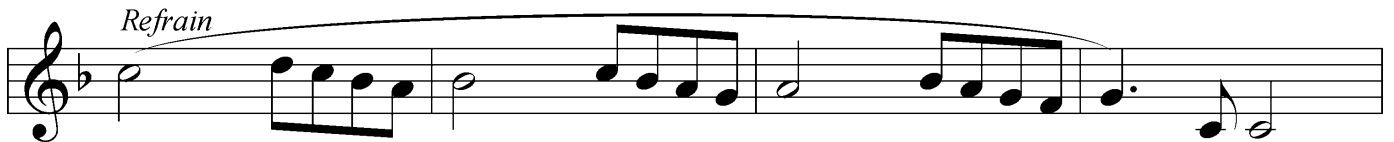
Text: French; Tune: French – “Gloria”; LSB #368 © 2006 CPH



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



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



Glo - - - - ri - a



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



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

Sermon

(Stand for the Reading of the Text)

Text: St. Luke 2
“O Holy Night”

Offering

Voluntary

Wie Schön Leuchtet der Morgenstern

P Nicolai/Arr. R Harvey

Arpeggio Brass

(Stand)

Prayers for Christmas Eve

(Be Seated)

Announcement of Christ's Birth

P In the ancient traditions of the Church, the formal announcement of the birth of Jesus was a most solemn moment in the Vigil of Christmas Eve. The fixation of the date, according to the ancient computation served to emphasize God's entrance into human history in the person of His Son and remind the congregation that the coming of the Savior was the pivotal event in all of human history.

*In the year 4004 since the Creation of the world,
the Lord God made the heavens and the earth;*

*In the year 2348 since the great Flood which destroyed all of mankind save faithful
Noah and his family within the ark;*

In the year 2015 since the birth of Father Abraham;

*In the year 1491 since Moses led the Exodus of the Children of Israel from the House of
Bondage in Egypt;*

In the year 1032 since David was anointed as God's chosen King;

In the 65th week of years according to the prophecy of Daniel;

In the year of the 194th Olympiad;

In the year 752 after the founding of the City of Rome;

In the 42nd year of the reign of the Emperor Octavian Augustus,

When there was peace throughout the whole world;

*In the 6th Era of the world's history; Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the
everlasting Father, Desired to sanctify the world by His gracious coming.*

*He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and now, after nine months He is born at
Bethlehem of the Tribe of Judah As a man, the Son of the Virgin Mary.*

The day of our Lord's birth has come!

C *Thanks be to God!*

(Stand)

Ceremony of Christmas Candles

- P** And he who came into the world as a babe in Bethlehem was the Word of God made flesh that dwells among us, full of grace and truth.

(House lights begin to go out.)

- P** In him was life; and that life was the light of the world; that light shines in the darkness still, and the darkness has not overcome it.

(Long pause)

(All lights out except the Christ Candle.)

- P** We too, who are his followers, are the light of the world.

(At this point two acolytes will come to the altar, light their tapers from the Christ candle, and begin sharing the light. They go down the aisles and light the candles of the end persons in each row. They in turn light the candle of the person next to them and so on down the rows until everyone is holding a lighted candle. While this is being done the Pastor reads the following scripture.)

- P** This then is the message which we heard of him and declare unto you –
That God is light, and in God is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship one with another. Those who love abide in the light, but those who hate abide in darkness. Therefore, beloved, let us love one another, not in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth. For love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Herein is love, not that we love God but that God loved us and sent His son to die on a cross. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. Therefore let us love one another and let our light shine.



Christmas Eve Carol

Silent Night

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr; Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber – "Stille Nacht"



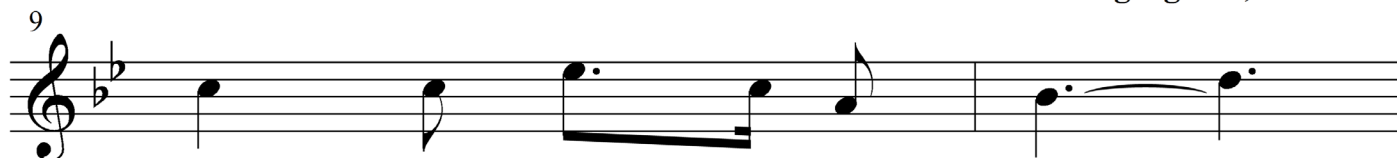
1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2. Stil - le Nacht, Hei - li - ge Nacht, Al - les schläft,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



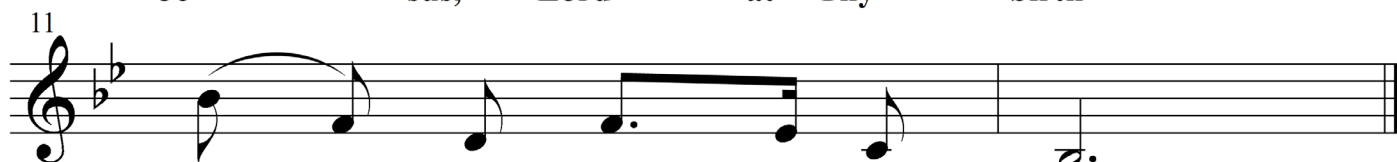
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
ein - sam wacht, Nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
Hold - er Kna - be im lock - i - gen Haar,
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace,
Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh,
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord at Thy birth



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh!
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord at Thy birth.

Blessing

(Spoken By Pastor)

As the star brightened the eastern skies, making a way for the kings:

Be light in the world, bearing Christ's light.

And as the kings bore their gifts: Be the gift of love to those you meet.

As the shepherds gave their worship: Live in humility and simplicity,
that the Word of God may come to you, and the needs of your neighbors be understood.

As the animals shared their stable and manger and straw:

Find comfort and joy in the simple treasures of life.

As the angels sang their songs in the skies:

So let your life be a glad song, telling of all that God has done for you.

For Christ is born – and is come to us. Alleluia.

Grace, mercy and peace, from God the Father, his newborn Son,
and the Spirit whom he gave to be with us always.

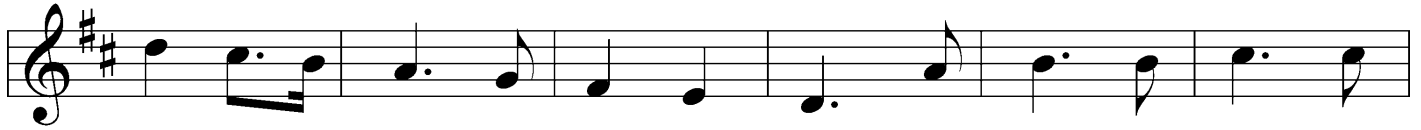
Alleluia. Amen.



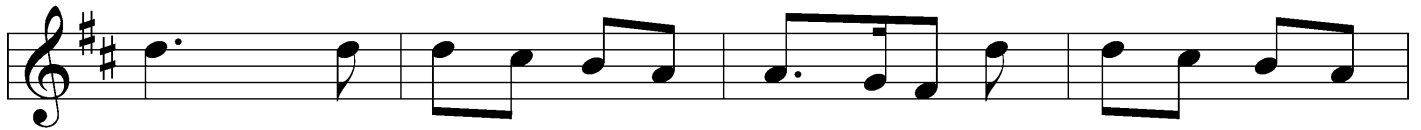
Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts; Tune: George Frideric Handel; LSB #387 © 2006 CPH



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Postlude

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Arr. John Rutter
Arpeggio Brass

Soli Deo Gloria!

On behalf of the staff of Church and School we wish you and yours a truly Blessed Christmas. May the Peace and the Joy of Bethlehem's Manger fill your hearts and your homes all the year to come.

A special word of welcome this Christmas Eve to our guests and visitors. We are honored by your presence and we hope that you have been blessed by celebrating Christ's birth with our congregation. We would be delighted to have you become a part of this gathering of believers on a regular basis so that together we may praise and serve our God together. Please come again soon.

Our thanks to the many people who have given their time and talent to make these holiday services the special events that they are. We wish to thank our musicians and choirs this evening. We are grateful to the members of the Altar Guild for the beautiful decorations which adorn our sanctuary on this Holy Night. Get your Poinsettia Dedication Book from an usher in the narthex. To God be the Glory as His people serve Him in Joy and Love!

Arpeggio Brass

Nicholas Engle..... Trumpet
Jennifer Rogers Trumpet
Raymond Wadenpfohl French Horn
John Siebern Organizer/Trombone
Dr. Matthew Lamm..... Tuba

Arpeggio Strings

Vladimir Kotsiouruba 1st Violin
Eddy Marcano 2nd Violin
Sophie Parker Viola
Rene Diaz Cello
Marcos Altamirano Bass



Worship with us again

Christmas Morning

Monday, December 25, at 9:30 AM

Our Savior Lutheran • 5000 W. Tidwell, Houston TX 77091 • 713-290-9087 • www.OSL.cc