

## **Introduction**

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.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Pre -Service Music**

Prelude:

"Go Tell It"-arr. Paul Manz

"Still, Still, Still"- arr. Paul Manz

"What Child is This?" -arr.. Paul Manz

"Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella" - arr. Christopher Uehlein

"Away in a Manger"- Organ/Piano Duet, Deb Albin Piano

"Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Vocals: Aaron, Jeff, Molly, and Naomi Wanko

Marimba: Isaac Wanko

“Come, Emmanuel” Arr. by Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Carol** # 283 ELW Verse 4 All singing in unison

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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

On this most holy night, we gather in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. May 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 #270 ELW

### “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

**Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**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!*

<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.**

**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.*

<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. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

**Gospel**

The Christmas gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel**

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.*

<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.

Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Christmas Eve Message**

**Hymn # 289 ELW**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

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.

*Refrain*  
 Glo - ri - a

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

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

### The 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.**

### Prayers

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

*A brief silence.*

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night.  
 God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. We pray for the people of Syria, and for peace in Ukraine, Russia, and the Middle East. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

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

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over women who give birth this night and attend to all people who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. May the memories of our loved ones bring blessings. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

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

### MEAL

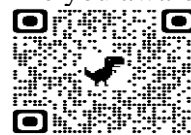
*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### Peace

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

### Offering

Wishing to make a donation? This QR code will take you to [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) where we can receive gifts. Please note: a [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) account is required to give in this way but is quick to create! Are you aware this app has an option to allow you to cover transactions fees?



### Choir Anthem/Carol

“Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head”

Arr. Mary McDonald

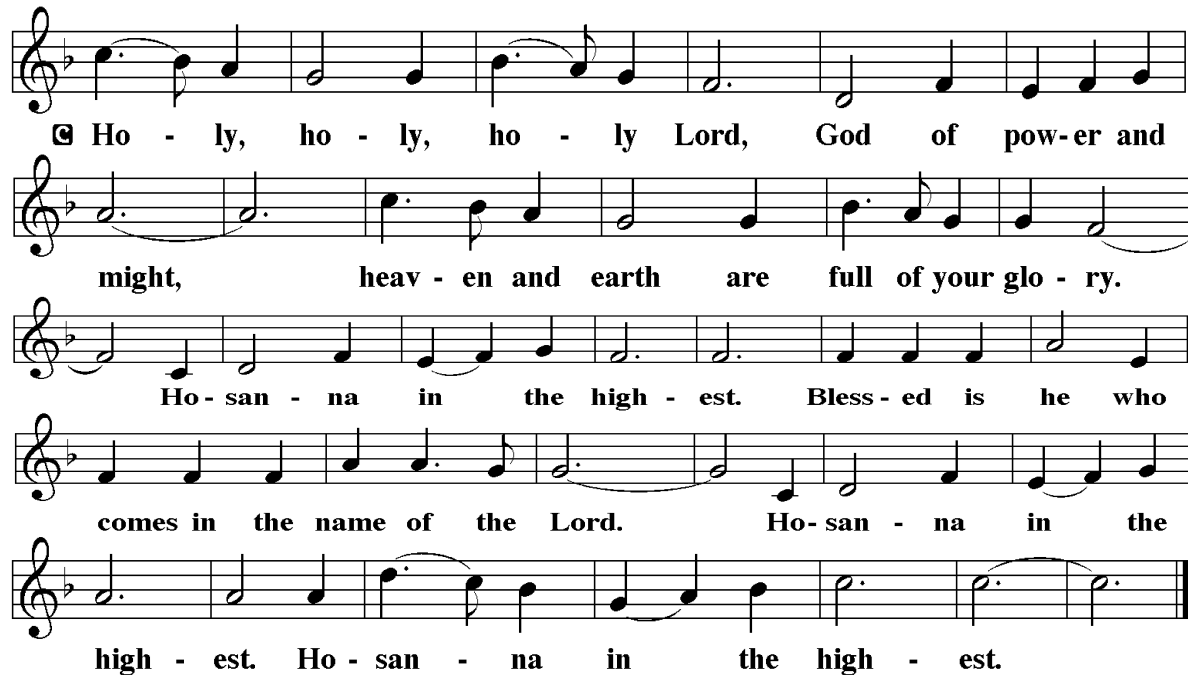
### Great Thanksgiving

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.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for a fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

### Lord's Prayer

Now, we pray as our Lord taught us.

**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.**

### Communion

**We welcome all to join in the sacrament of Holy Communion as the Holy Spirit guides and directs.**

*People in worship will be invited to come forward to the altar by pew rows.*

*The pastor will distribute a wafer or gluten-free wafer, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you."*

*Each person will then move toward a volunteer holding a tray of disposable, plastic cups: the inner ring will be filled with grape juice, the other cups will be filled with wine.*

*As each person selects their cup, they will hear: "The blood of Christ, given for you." Empty cups will be placed in a tray held by another volunteer after each person has communed.*

*Pre-sealed cups are available for anyone who chooses to communion in this form.*

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, grant us peace.

**Communion Hymn/Carol #276 ELW**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new  
 ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.  
 Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.  
 Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

**Special Music**

“Come All Ye Faithful”

Chisa and Akio Wiese

**Prayer after Communion**

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.**

**Distribution of the Light**

*As the light of the Christ candle is passed to the congregation, please DO NOT TIP a lighted candle.*

**Lesson of Light**

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He  
 was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not  
 one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the  
 light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome  
 it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify  
 to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came  
 to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the  
 world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did  
 not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.  
<sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children  
 of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of  
 God. <sup>14</sup>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.



**Carol #281 ELW**

**“Silent Night”**

*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

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**Benediction**

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

"Joy to the World" Organ/ Piano Duet, Deb Albin Piano

**The flowers which adorn the altar were given to the glory of God. By the following people:**

Bill and Deb Albin

In memory of our parents

Bob and Beth Baer

In honor of our children and grandchildren

James & Darlene Bonta

In honor of our grandchildren

Rich and Stacey Bretz

In honor of our children

John & Sue Clover

In honor of Kathyn Clover

Gary and Lara Haines

In memory of David Simmons

Dave and Kathy Jennings

In Memory of our parents

Randy Hollowell & Micheline Kidwell

In memory of Verlin E. Kidwell

Nancy Litherland

In memory of Gary Litherland

Dan and Mary Alice Mawer

To the Glory of God

Elaine McLean

In memory of Havard McLean

Fred and Terry Schuurmann

In Memory of Carolyn

Connie Wilkins

In memory of Patricia and Bernice

Pat Willeke

In Memory of Gene Willeke

