



# *Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship*

*Peace Lutheran Church  
Saint Louis, Missouri*

# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

## DECEMBER 24, 2025

WELCOME TO PEACE! If you are a guest, please fill out the Visitor side of one of the attendance cards found in the pew rack. Let us know if you would like us to contact you. We are happy to have you worshipping with us today!

CHRIST'S BODY AND BLOOD, for the forgiveness of sins, are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar. Due to theological differences among Christians regarding beliefs about this Supper, only communicant members of an LCMS church are invited to the Lord's table. Ask a pastor if you have questions or concerns. Please register your taking of communion on your attendance card.

**P** = Pastor      \* = Stand      △ = Stand for Trinitarian stanza      **C** = Congregation

### Opening Voluntary

(12:00)      What Child Is This?      GREENSLEEVES/John A. Behnke

*The Bells of Peace*

(3:00 and 5:00) Christmas Angel Overture      Arranged: Jeff Cranfill


The First Noel      THE FIRST NOWELL/Jeff Cranfill

*The Orchestra of Peace*

(10:45)      See page 16

### \*Opening Hymn

LSB 376 Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

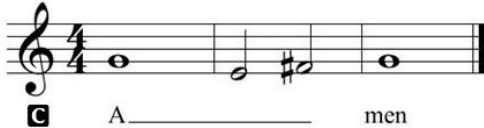


was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our glad-ness.  
 leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.  
 stars His chil-dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

### \*Invocation

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**C** A \_\_\_\_\_ men

### \*Confession and Absolution

*2 Peter 3:9; Acts 17:30; Galatians 4:3–4a; John 1:11–12; 3:17a, 18b*

**P** The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

**C** **The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent.**

**P** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

**C** **But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.**

**P** He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

**C** **But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.**

**P** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,

**C** **But in order that the world might be saved through Him.**

**P** Beloved in Christ, let us confess our sin unto God our Father, that, placing our trust in His name, our hearts may be well-prepared to greet our King.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** **We confess that there is no one good, not even one, among us. All mankind has turned aside. We have willfully offended You, our Lord and Maker, in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have done what is evil and failed to do what is good, and thus deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But we are truly sorry for our sins and come to You for mercy. As we contemplate the**

manger, we behold the Son You sent to save us all, and we turn to You for forgiveness. Grant us the gift Your Son came to bring: the forgiveness of our sins, that we may be renewed in faith and walk in the way that leads to everlasting life.

**P** With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### \*Hymn of Praise

### LSB 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
*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!

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 9:2–7*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light 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 they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to

uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Titus 2:11–14*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## \*Alleluia and Verse

*Cantor/Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**C**



Al - le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al - le-lu - ia!



Al - le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al - le-lu - ia!

*Cantor/Choir: Unto us a Son is given, Jesus Christ the Lord!*

**C**



Al - le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al - le-lu - ia!



Al - le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al - le-lu - ia!

## \*Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>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 Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## \*Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day

## LSB 380 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!



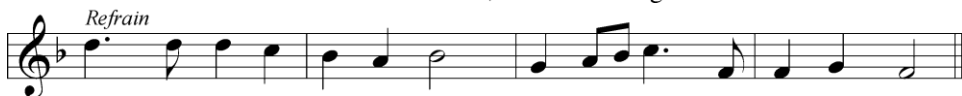
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all 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.



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

(Isaiah 9:2-7)

**Gathering of the Offering**     *Please fill out an attendance card and place in the offering plate*

## Antiem at the Offertory

(12:00) Infant Holy, Infant Lowly W ZLOBIE LEZY/John A. Behnke

## *The Bells of Peace*

(3:00 and 5:00) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN/Jeff Cranfill

## *The Orchestra of Peace*

(11:15) Far Away in a Manger Kevin Keil

*The Chancel Choir*

## \*Prayers of the Church

**P** Let us pray to God our Father through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son into the world to be our Savior. Be with those You send today to bring Jesus to us. Bless especially all pastors, teachers, deaconesses, missionaries, and musicians of Your church, and strengthen the witness of all the congregations of our Synod, that more people may know Your loving kindness each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, as the angel testified the gift of Jesus, so may each of us tell others about how our Savior was born for them as well. By Your Spirit's power, grant faith to our neighbors and coworkers and all whom we love this Christmas. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** Heavenly Father, under Your watchful care, You preserve and sustain life. We give You thanks for those who keep watch over us: firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, and all who are entrusted with public work. Bless their work, and guide those who rule our land, especially our president and our governor. We ask Your protective and sustaining care for those who serve our country, particularly our military personnel. Grant that they may share the good tidings of comfort and joy even in days of separation from their families. Grant faithfulness to our Synod's military chaplains as they proclaim the good news of Christ's birth, and watch over all who place themselves in harm's way on our behalf. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, You once sent Your angels to announce good news to lonely shepherds. Send us and others with the same good news of the Savior, who has come for the lowliest among us, including the lonely and destitute, those who are



homebound, those who live in nursing homes and care facilities, those who spend their days in institutions and prisons, and those who live on the streets of our towns and cities. Help us love others as You have loved us, and so provide for our neighbors in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** Heavenly Father, sustain all those from this congregation who are sick and infirm, [*especially . . .*]. Grant them healing of body, peace of mind, and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Comfort them and their families with the certainty that Jesus is indeed the Savior of the nations who gives us the sure hope of eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

**C** Amen.

#### \*Lord's Prayer

**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.

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

#### \*The Words of Our Lord

#### \*Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

#### \*Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

### Distribution Anthem

(12:00) Still, Still, Still

German Carol/ Norman Luboff

*The Bells of Peace*

(3:00 and 5:00) What Child is This?

GREENSLEEVES/Jeff Cranfill

*The Orchestra of Peace*

(11:15) All is Well

Michael W. Smith and Wayne Kirkpatrick

*Chancel Choir*

### Distribution Hymn

LSB 370 What Child Is This

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!

### Distribution Anthem

(11:15) Pastorale

Arranged: Leonard Slatkin

### Distribution Hymn

### LSB 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



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 All you, be-neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass 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 a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:  
When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



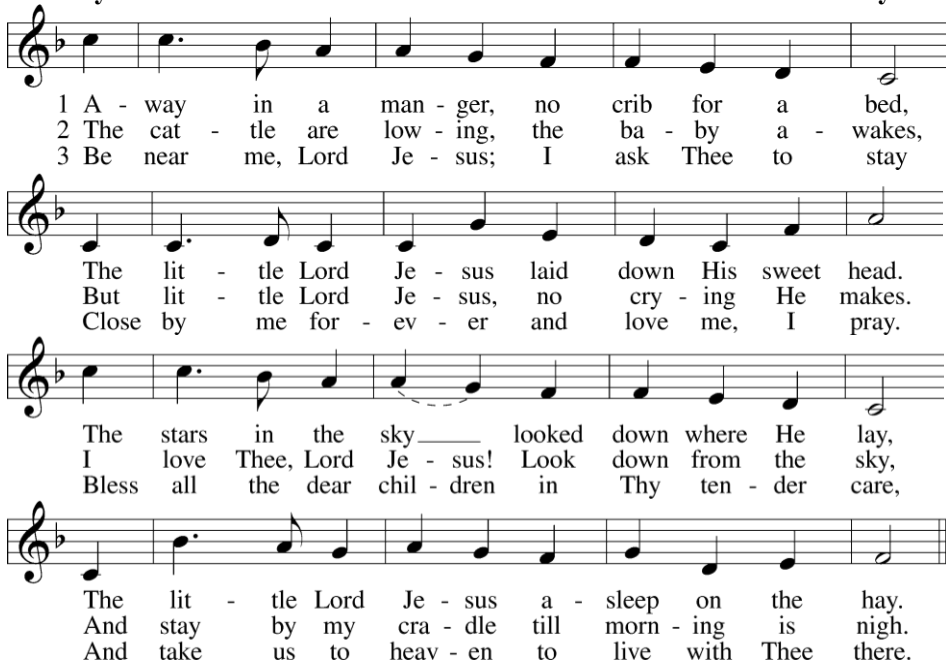
"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring,



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.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

## Distribution Hymn

## LSB 364 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

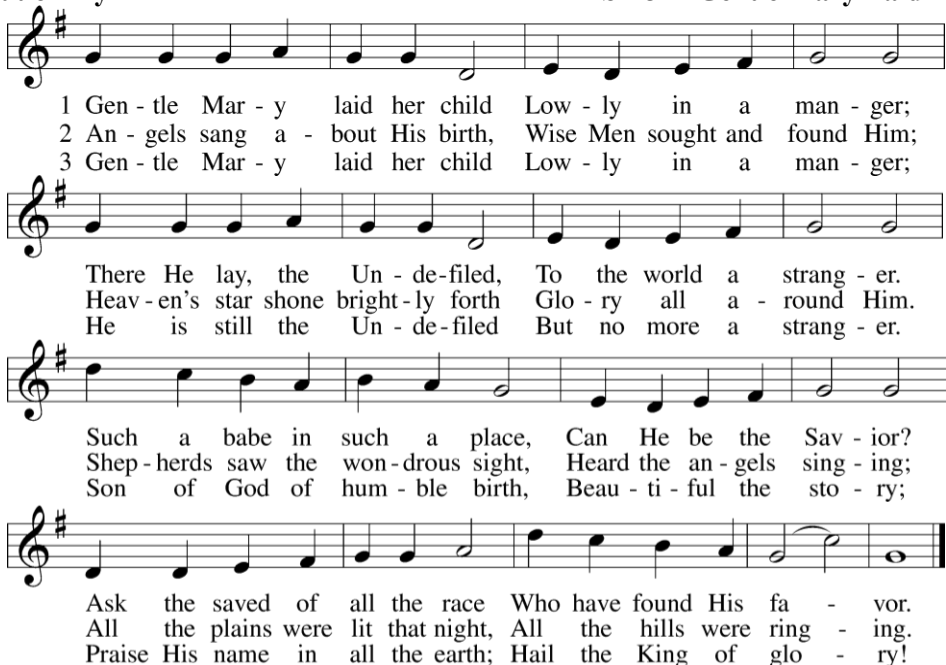
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,  
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

## Distribution Hymn

## LSB 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

## Candle Lighting

*A Pastor or Elder will come to each pew to share the light of Christ. To receive and then pass the light of Christ symbolically through candle lighting, please only tilt the unlit candle towards the flame of a lit candle. Resist the impulse to tilt your candle to light the next person's candle. The person next to you will then tilt their unlit candle to your candle. Use caution and avoid hair, clothing, and other flammables. Also use caution with the hot melted wax. Parents, or other adults, please assist small children.*

## \*Carol

## LSB 363 Silent Night, Holy Night



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,  
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 Thy ho - ly face  
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 Thy  
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

## \*Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

*Please extinguish your candle.*

## \*Hymn to Depart

## LSB 368 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.



Glo - - - - ri - a



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



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

## \*Silent Prayer

### Closing Voluntary

(12:00)	Angels We Have Heard on High <i>The Bells of Peace</i>	GLORIA/Fred Gramann
(3:00 and 5:00)	Angels We Have Heard On High <i>The Orchestra of Peace</i>	GLORIA/Jeff Cranfill
(11:15)	Angels We Have Heard On High <i>The Strings of Peace</i>	GLORIA/Kathy Fishburn

### Acknowledgments

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### SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP:

Preacher: Pastor Jon Furgeson

Liturgist: Pastor Robert Brown

Organist: Burnell Hackman, DMM

Choirs: 12:00: Bells of Peace; 3:00 & 5:00: Orchestra of Peace;  
11:15: Chancel Choir and Strings of Peace

Elders: 12:00: Rick Goodman, Steve Shawcross; 3:00: Rob Uthoff, Bob Wolff;  
5:00: Ken Werkmeister, Greg Wirtel; 11:15: Jeff Akers, John Roesch

Ushers: 12:00: Morning Team – Steve Kienstra, Captain; 3:00: Team #12 – Chris Hosty, Captain;  
5:00: Team #13 – Dean Seyfert, Captain; 11:15: Team #14 – Greg Wirtel, Captain

Altar Committee: 12:00: Jeanette Mattingly; 3:00: Angie Fischer;  
5:00: Grace Truemper; 11:15: Jeanne Hooss

The Rev. Dr. Jon C. Furgeson, Senior Pastor, 314-601-1039

Rev. Robert M. Brown, Associate Pastor, 618-580-8817

The Rev. Dr. Dennis A. Kastens, Pastor Emeritus

Burnell L. Hackman, Director of Music Ministry

Christina Stackle, Director of Christian Education

Abby Reynolds, Deaconess Intern

Sara Watson, Director of Early Childhood



## 10:45 CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE

The Angels Sing

Arranged: Leonard Slatkin

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adams/Leonard Slatkin

What Child is This?

GREENSLEEVES/John A. Behnke

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOWEL/Leonard Slatkin

Lullay, Noel

Arranged: Becki Stagle Mayo


All Is Well

Michael W. Smith and Wayne Kirkpatrick/Keith Christopher


Carol

**LSB 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain**


*Refrain*



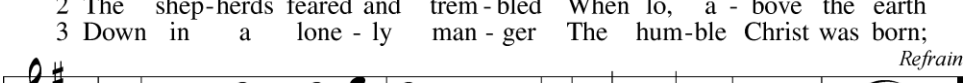
Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



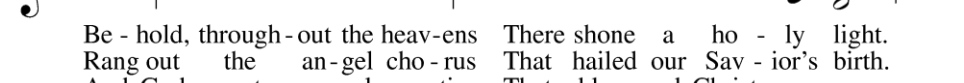
Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,




2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth




3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;


*Refrain*



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.



Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.



And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Still, Still, Still

German Carol/Carole Neuen-Rabinowitz

Gesu Bambino

Pitro Yon/Jason W. Krug