



Church of the Savior

L U T H E R A N

December 28, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas



Presider:	The Reverend Paul A. Miller
Phone:	201-261-0420
Email:	church@cosparamus.org
Website:	www.churchofthesavior-lutheran.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Church of the Savior – Lutheran:

We are a community of believers, seekers, and doubters. We affirm all of God's people just as they are. We are a welcoming and inclusive community that does not require you to change in any way to worship with us.

We strive to make love grow both in our congregational life and in our nursery school. We recognize all the love we have is given to us from the Holy Spirit, we are but reflections of God's love. One of the ways we make love grow is by being accepting and existing the way Jesus taught us; living in harmony together no matter one's race, nationality, or gender. We strive to create and ensure the safest and most loving environment for everyone. We look forward to growing in faith with you.

With Regard to Holy Communion:

We celebrate Holy Communion nearly every week at Church of the Savior. Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which Christ comes to us in bread and wine. "This is my body given for you... This is my blood shed for you." We believe those words to be true. Christ is truly present in Holy Communion. When we receive the bread and wine of this meal, we receive his body and blood "in, with, and under the forms" of the consecrated bread and wine. All of God's beautiful children are welcome to our Lord's table — it's our Lord's table, after all, and all are invited. Let's be clear — it is not "my" table, or "our" table or a "Lutheran" table. It is our Lord's table, and he sends out the invitations — to everyone under the sun. This includes you to come forward just as are.

For the bread we provide two types of host, with gluten and without. If you would like gluten free let Pastor Paul know when you come forward. We offer both red wine and white grape juice.

To the Parents of Children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is going on. Little one's tire of seeing the back of others' heads.

Explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, and the people who make worship happen. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in their house of worship. The presence of your child is a gift to Church of the Savior. We are blessed to welcome and worship with our children. We know that it took a lot of work to get to this pew today; you are doing a really good job!

PRELUDE: Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding All
may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister
begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

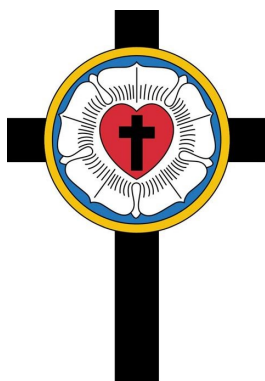
Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God, **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

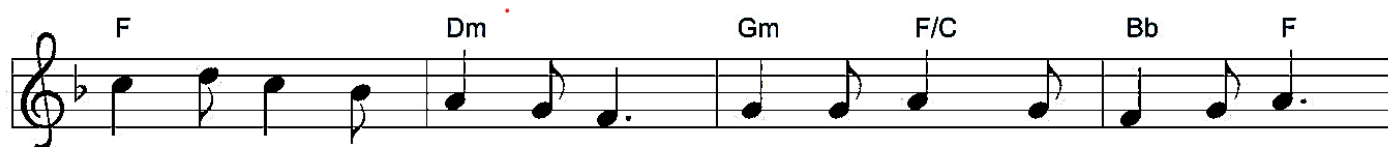
God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**



PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Good Christian Friends Rejoice



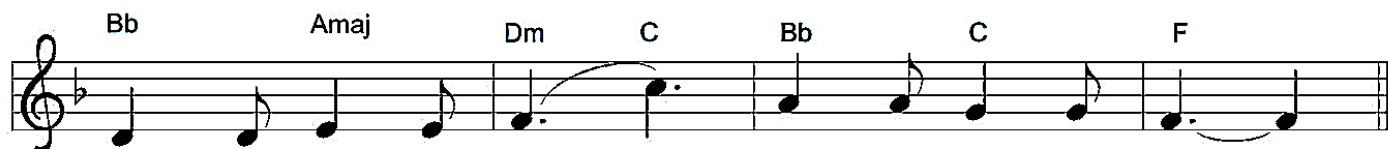
- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



GREETING

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.



THE GLORIA



Glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry to God in the high - est!

Glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry to God in the high-est! Glo - ry to God in the

high - est and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry to God in the high - est!

Glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry glo-ry to God in the high - est! Glo-ry Glo-ry!



PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God



PSALM: Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,

whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**



SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

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



GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

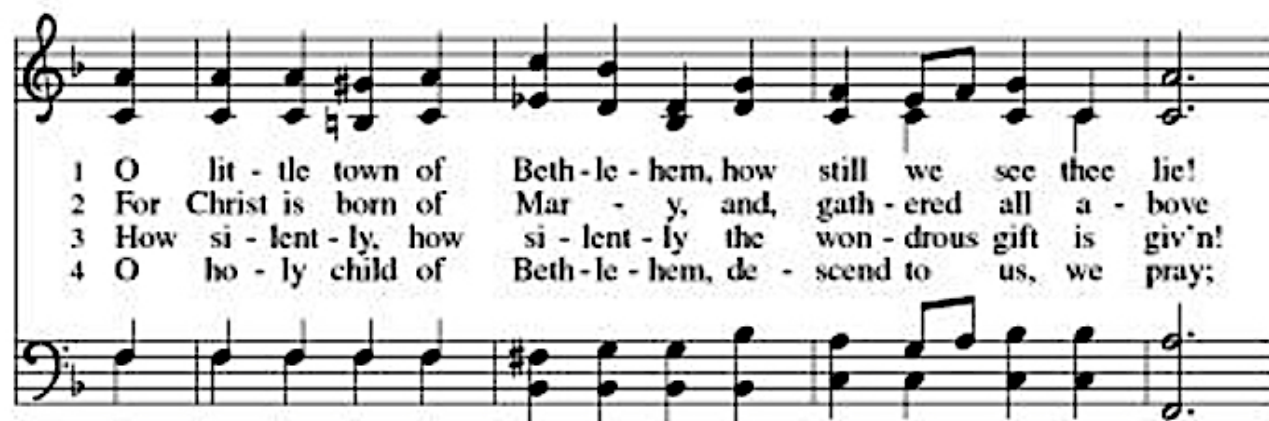
People: Praise to you, O Christ.



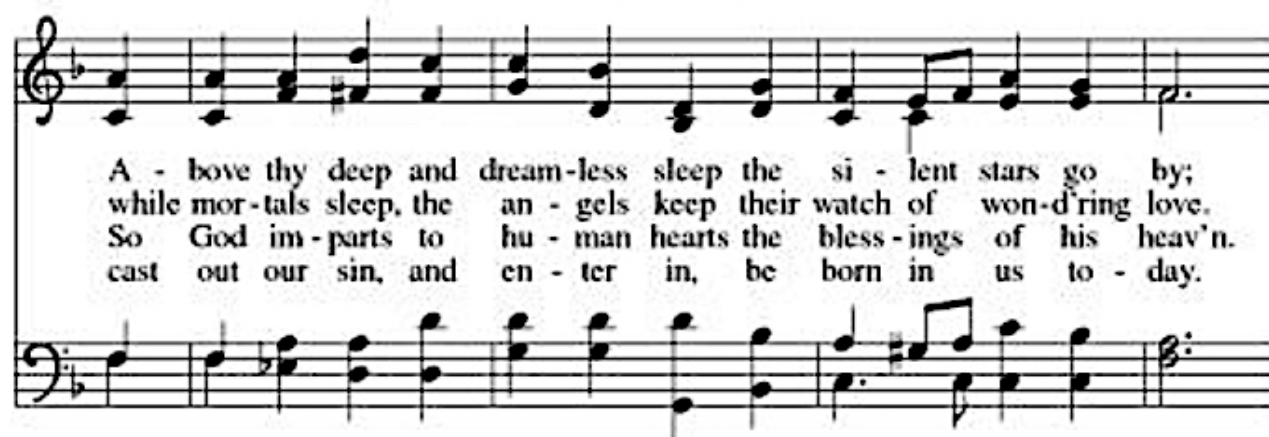
HOMILY: Pastor Paul



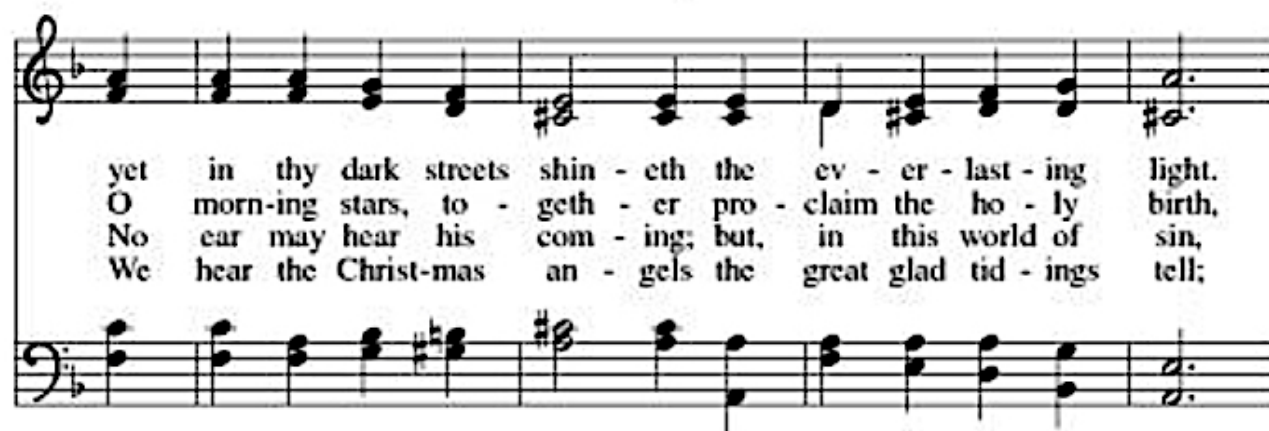
HYMN OF THE DAY: O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 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!

CONFESSION OF FAITH - APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Response: Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERING

**Please mail your offering to:
Church of the Savior
643 Forest Avenue - Paramus, NJ 07652 OR Use the
QR code on right for your offertory giving.**



Eb Fm7 Bb Eb Cm F
 Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir-it with-
 Bbsus Bb Bb/Ab Fm7 Eb/Bb Bb Gmaj
 in me. Cast me not a - way from Your pre-sence, and take not Your
 Cm F7 Bb Bb7 Eb/Bb Bb Eb/Bb
 Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the joy of Your sal-
 Ab Bb Eb7 Ab Fm7 Bb Ebsus Eb
 va - tion; and up - hold me with Your free Spir - it.

ALL: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

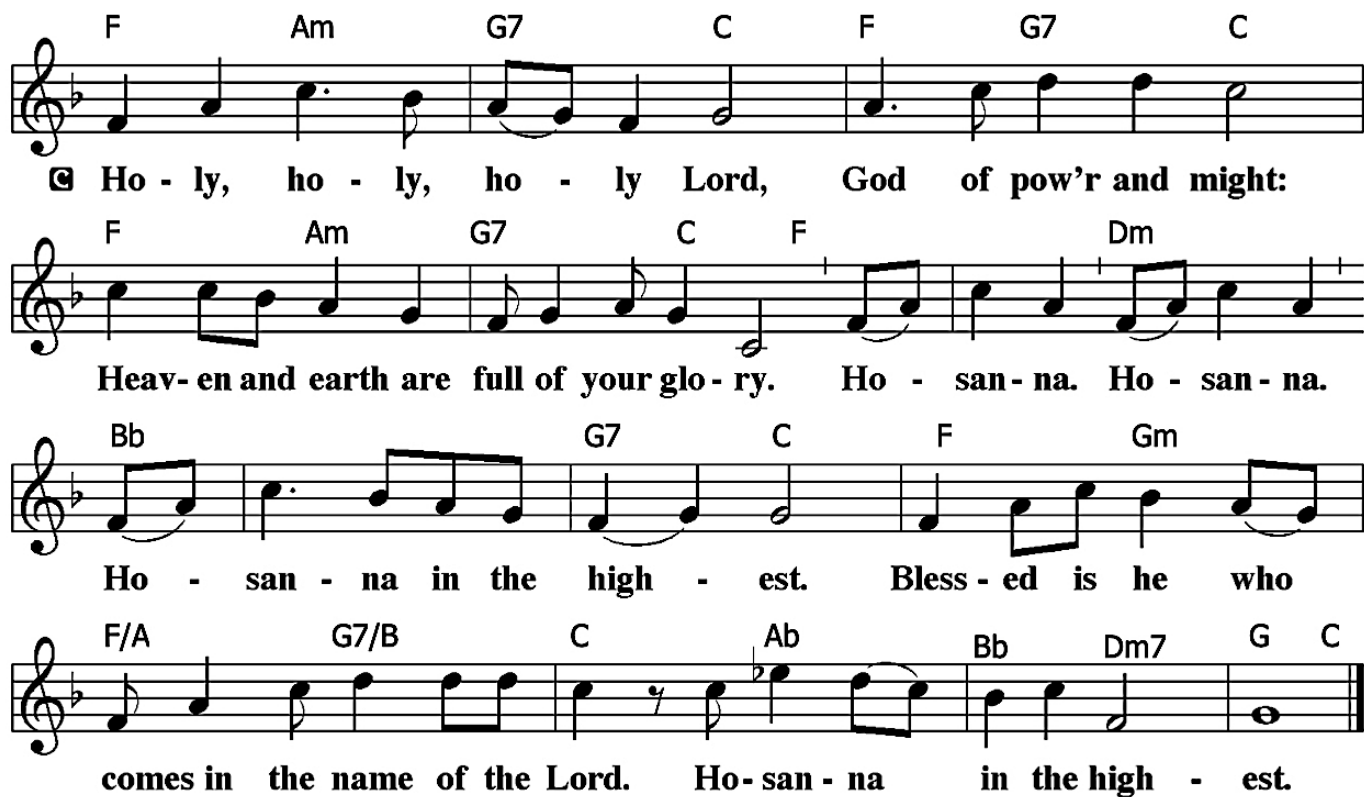
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR THE SEASON

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





F Am G7 C F G7 C

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

F Am G7 C F Dm

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

Bb G7 C F Gm

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

F/A G7/B C Ab Bb Dm7 G C

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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

....proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

At conclusion of Eucharistic Prayer

People: Amen



F Bb G7 C
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 Dm G C F Bb G7
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 C Dm G C F Am Bb
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 Eb Ab Bb Dm G7 C
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION



COMMUNION HYMN: What Child Is This



The image displays a musical score for the hymn "What Child Is This". It is written for a two-part setting, with a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily in the treble part, while the bass part provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system contains three numbered verses. The second system contains two lines of text. The third system contains two lines of text. The final line of the score is a repeat of the first line of the third system.

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

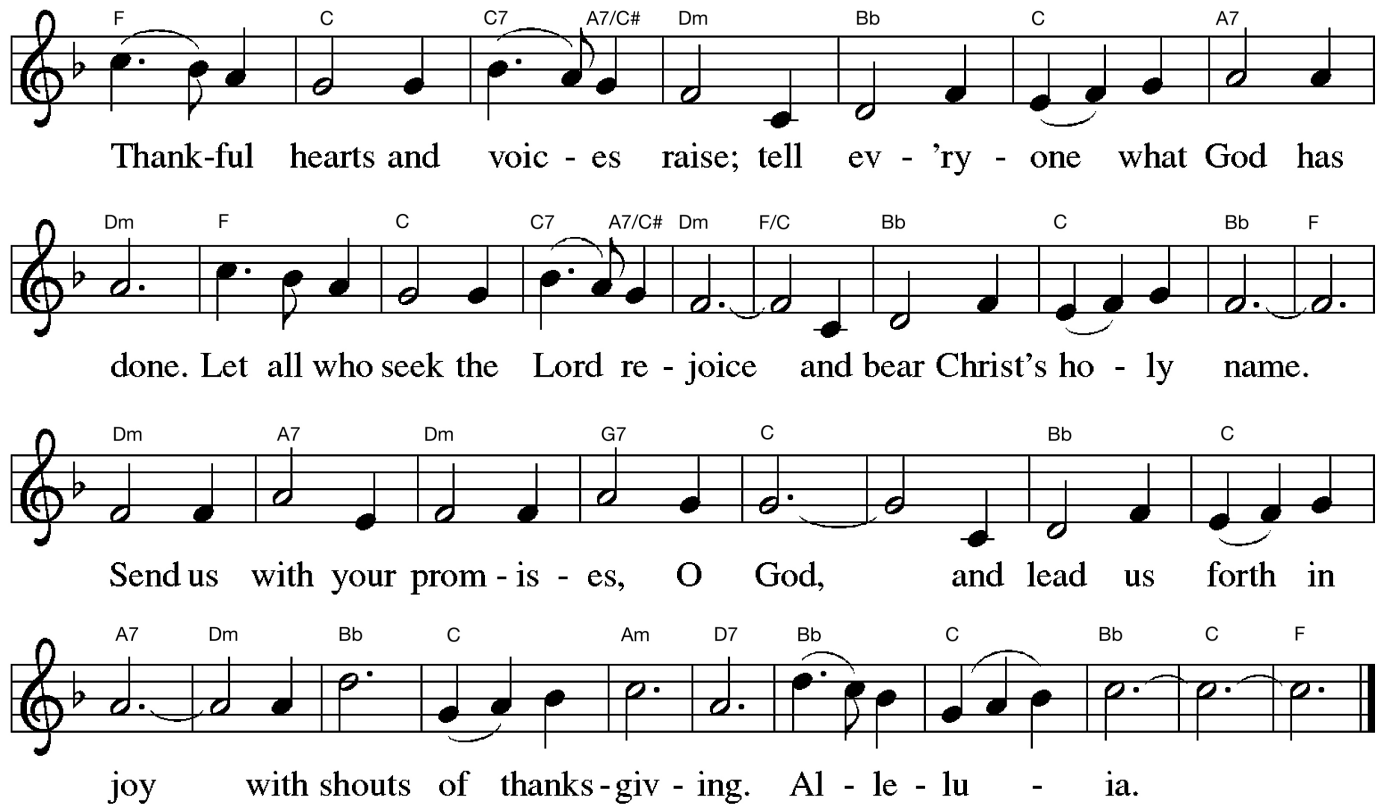
Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace! **Amen.**



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are placed below the notes. Chord symbols are written above the staves: F, C, C7, A7/C#, Dm, Bb, C, A7, Dm, F, C, C7, A7/C#, Dm, F/C, Bb, C, Bb, F, Dm, A7, Dm, G7, C, Bb, C, A7, Dm, Bb, C, Am, D7, Bb, C, Bb, C, F.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

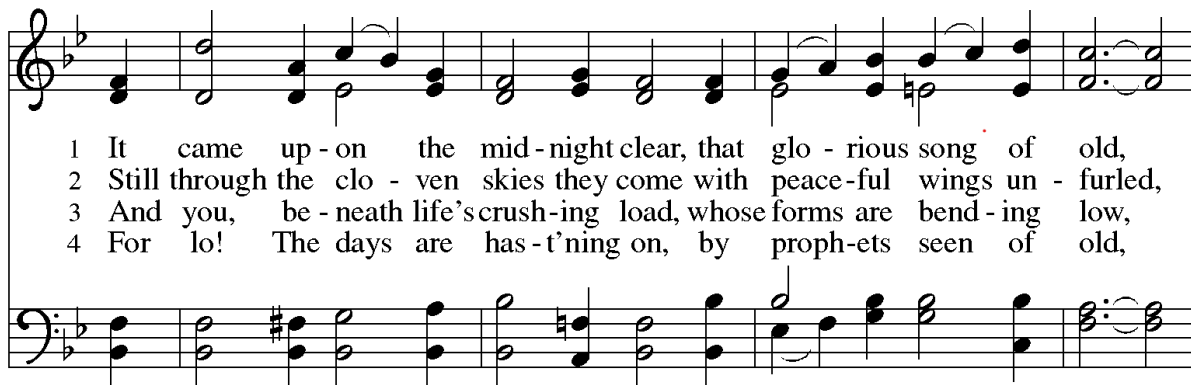
And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

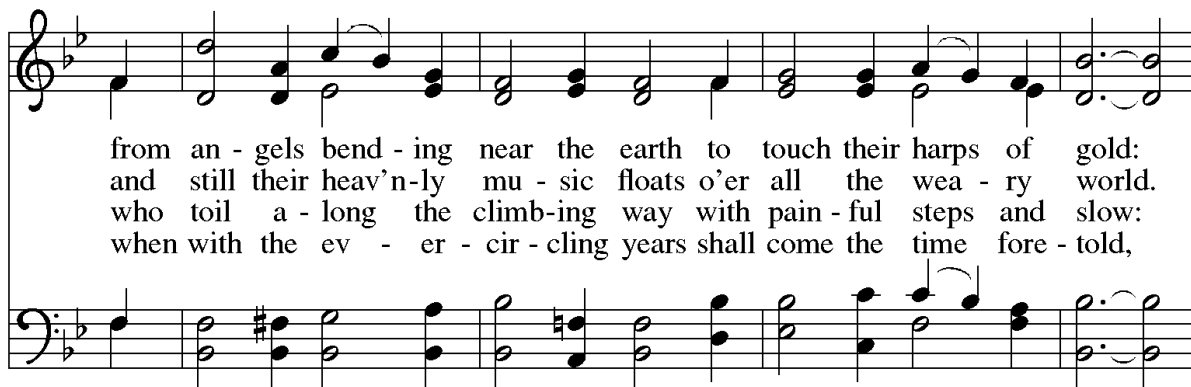
Thanks be to God.



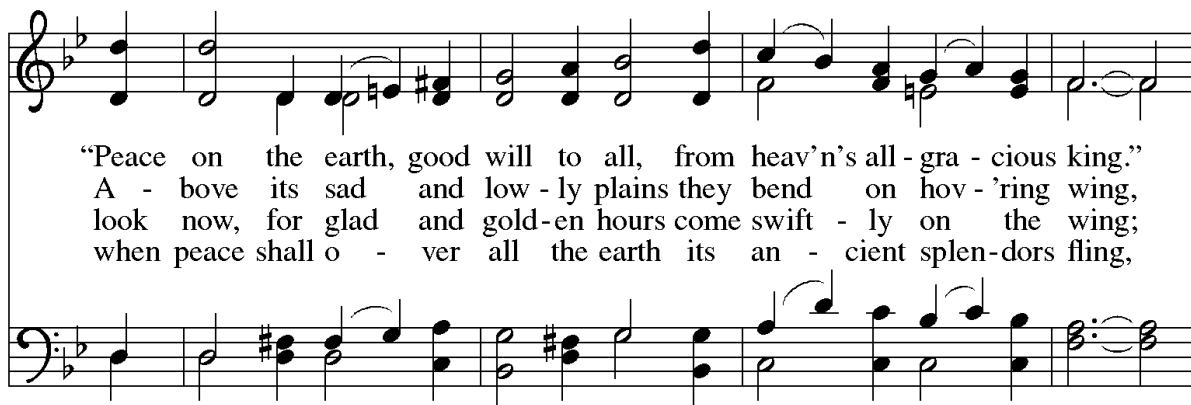
RECESSIONAL HYMN: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear



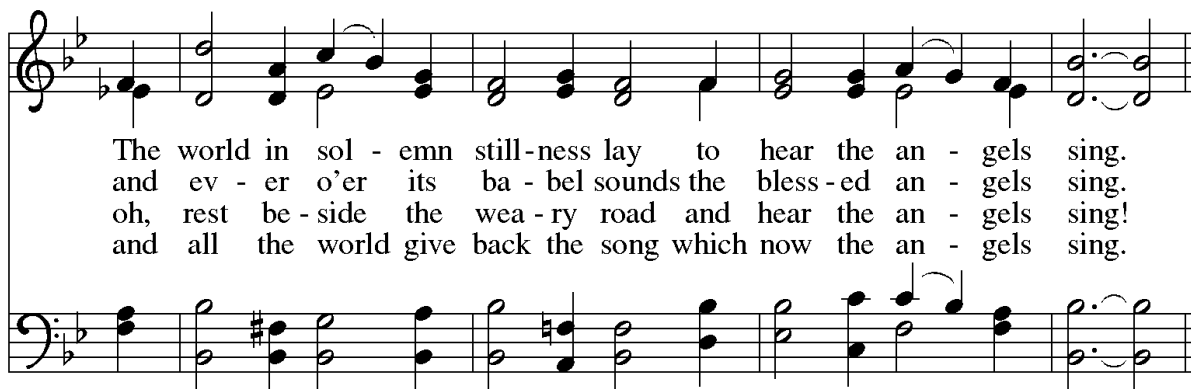
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



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.



Church of the Savior

L U T H E R A N

SERVING TODAY

DATE	LECTOR	WORSHIP ASST.	USHER
Dec 28	Christophe Moderacki	Sally Leara	John Leara
Jan 4	Dave Johnsrud	Susan Conrad	Ed Moderacki
Jan 11	Vicki Coyle	Maggie Harrer	Rick Henly

FLOWERS

Dec 28	For: In Celebration of Maimi and Willow's Birthday
	From: Antoinette
Jan 4	For: In Celebration of my Son Tristan's Birthday
	From: Antoinette
Jan 11	For: In Honor of Rick Henly's Birthday
	From: Maggie Harrer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 1	New Year's Day—Church & School Closed
Jan 3	Men's Breakfast
Jan 4	Sunday School & Coffee Hour
Jan 18	Congregational Meeting Sunday School

MAILING LIST

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