

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship Service

December 24th 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM & 9 PM



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

809 S Commercial St. Neenah, WI 54956

our-saviors.org



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

(920) 725-3956

We are glad you are joining us for worship at
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
You are Welcome here!

Please fill out the **Pew Pads** for registering your attendance and communion participation. If you would like a pastoral call or want to join OSLC, please check those boxes and include contact information.

During the **Offering**, the ushers will pass the offering plates. In addition to placing gifts in the plates, this QR code can be used if you would like to give electronically through **Tithe.ly**



We have an open table for **Holy Communion** with two options to receive communion:

- 1) Come forward, at the direction of the ushers, to receive communion by **Intinction**. You will receive a wafer (gluten free available) and then dip it either in the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Children and others not wishing to receive communion may come forward with their hands folded to receive a blessing. Otherwise, come forward with you palms open to receive a wafer.

- 2) Stay in your pew and use the **self-contained communion cups** (wafer on the top and grape juice on the bottom). These are located in the rear of the sanctuary as you walk in.

Licensing:

Liturgy and readings from sundaysandseasons.com Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006038.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission.

Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715921 and CCLI #880487. All rights reserved.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Carol: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" verses 1-3

ELW #283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



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!

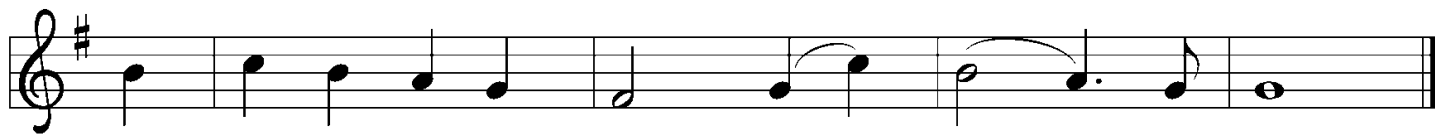


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:

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!

Christmas Dialog, Greeting & Prayer

A The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

**C The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

A Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**C We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

A For to us a child is born,
to us a Son is given.

**C In him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

A May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray.

**C 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

Special Music

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------|
| 1 PM | “O Holy Night” | Gracie Kocha |
| | Words by C. De Roquemaure & Music by A. Adam | |
| 3 PM | “Carol of the Bells” | Joyous Ringers |
| | Music by Mykola Leontovich | |
| | Arranged by Cathy Moglebust | |
| 5 PM | “Were You There on That Christmas Night?” | Choir |
| | Words & Music by Natalie Sleeth | |
| 9 PM | “Love Is Born Anew” | Jim Miller |
| | Words & Music by Peter Mayer | |

Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

Carol: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" verses 1 & 3

ELW #270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
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."
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

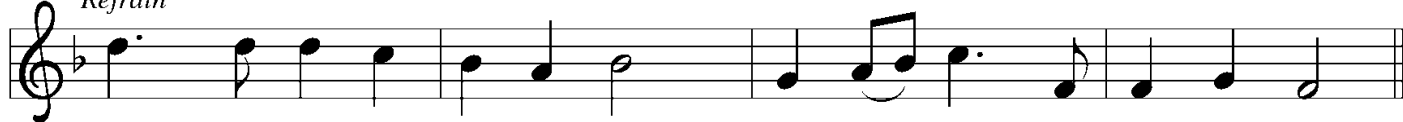


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
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.

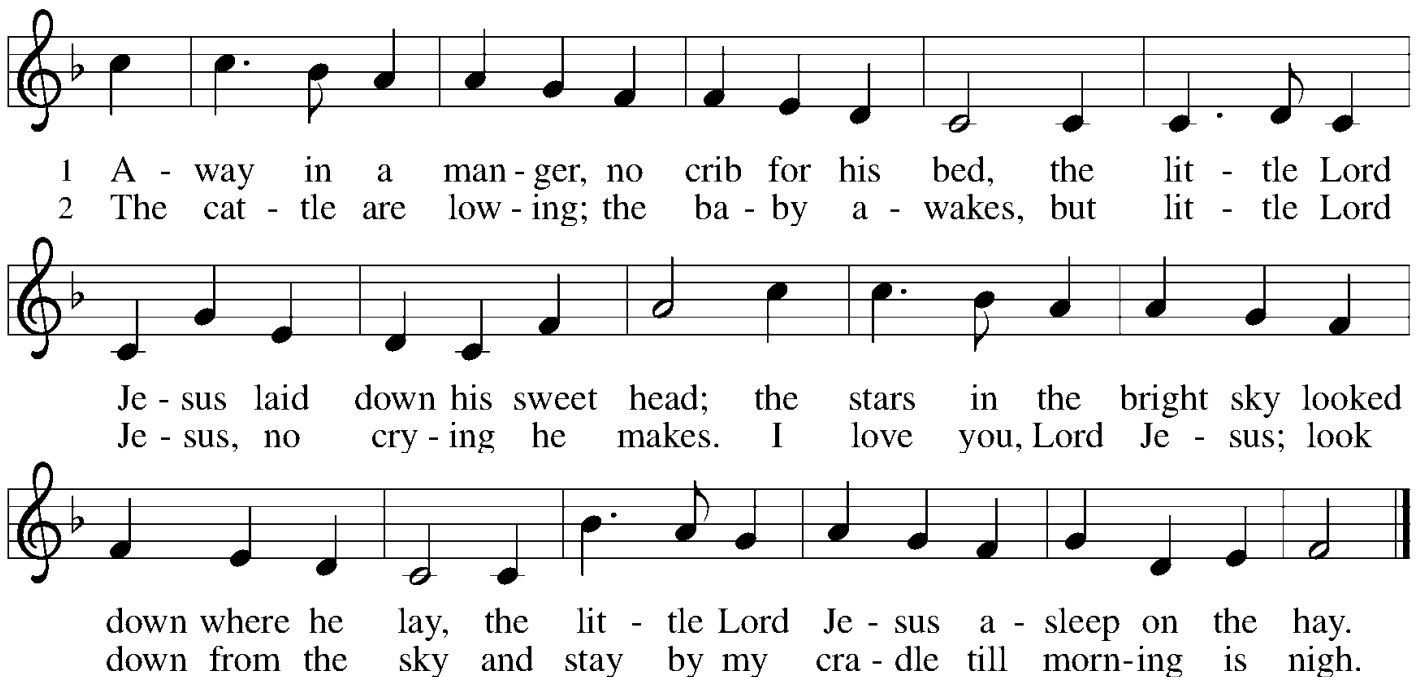
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Carol: “Away in the Manger” verses 1 & 2

ELW # 277



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High" verses 1-3

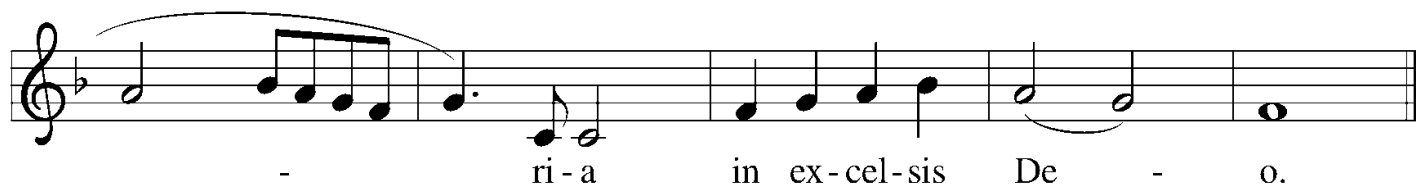
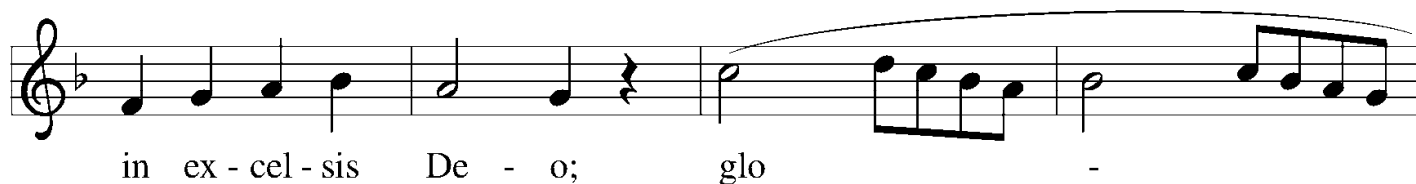
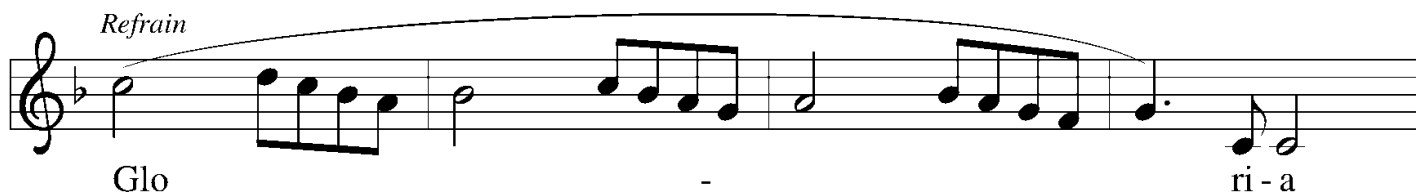
ELW #289



- 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.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Rev. Jon Strasman, Pastor

Carol: "Love Has Come" verses 1-3

ELW #292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Prayers of the People

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950
Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856
Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Abide with us, O God of mercy,
and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

C Amen.

The Offering

*If you would like to make a gift to the church electronically,
you can use this QR code. Thank you.*



Special Music

- 1 PM “Hallelujah” Izzy & Will Ricketts
Words & Music by Leonard Cohen
- 3 PM “Mary, Did You Know?” Norah Spanbauer
Words & Music by Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene
Arranged by Lindsey Stirling
- 5 PM “In the Bleak Midwinter” Amber Okray
Words by Christina Rossetti & Music by Gustav Holst
Arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen
- 9 PM “Still, Still, Still” Jim Miller
Arranged by Mark Hayes

Offering Prayer

**C God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

Words of Institution

The 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.**

Communion

P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Communion Song: "What Child Is This"

ELW #296



- 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Communion Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

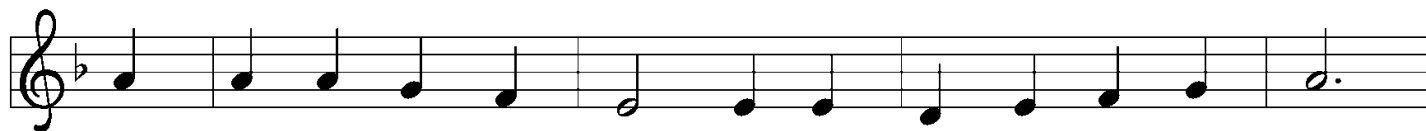
ELW #279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

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

Table Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

C Amen

Prayer after Communion

**C 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.**

The Candlelight Service

*The main lights will be turned off.
The minister lights a candle from the Christ candle.
The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle,
then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle.
The lighted candle is never tilted,
but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

Gospel of the Incarnation: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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 of Light: “Silent Night, Holy Night” verses 1-3

ELW #281

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 your 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 your
 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

*The main lights will be turned on.
 Candles are extinguished.*

Blessing

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the song of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi and the abounding joy of Jesus. God bless you and keep you, Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song: "Joy to the World" verses 1, 2 & 4

ELW #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
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.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Dismissal

P Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

C Thanks be to God.