

# Christmas Eve

## Candlelight Worship Service

December 24, 2025 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM & 9 PM



## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

809 S Commercial St. Neenah, WI 54956

[our-saviors.org](http://our-saviors.org)

(920) 725-3956



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

We are glad you are joining us for worship at

## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 traditional 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**. **Please Note:** If you give cash in an envelope, please write your name on the envelope if you want credit for it on your giving statement.



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.

There are portions of the worship service when the **assembly is invited to stand**.

Feel free to sit anytime during worship.

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Prelude

## Welcome

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

ELW #283

*please stand as you are able*



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!

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

## **Christmas Dialog & Greeting**

L 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.**

L 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.**

L 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.**

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

**C And also with you.**

## **Prayer**

L 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.**

*you may be seated*

## Special Music

- |      |  |                      |
|------|--|----------------------|
| 1 PM | “Mary Did You Know”<br>Words by Buddy Greene & Music by Mark Lowry   | Izzy & Will Ricketts |
| 3 PM | “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”<br><i>UNE JEUNE PUCELLE</i> French folk tune<br>Arranged by Cathy Moglebust | Joyous Ringers       |
| 5 PM | “Candlelight Carol”<br>Words & Music by John Rutter  | Choir                |

## Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

- <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 exultation;  
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> Great will be his authority,  
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.

**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.

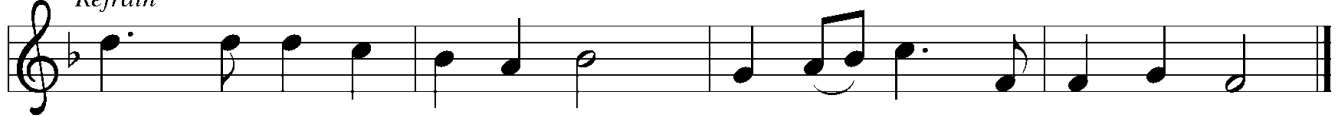


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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.

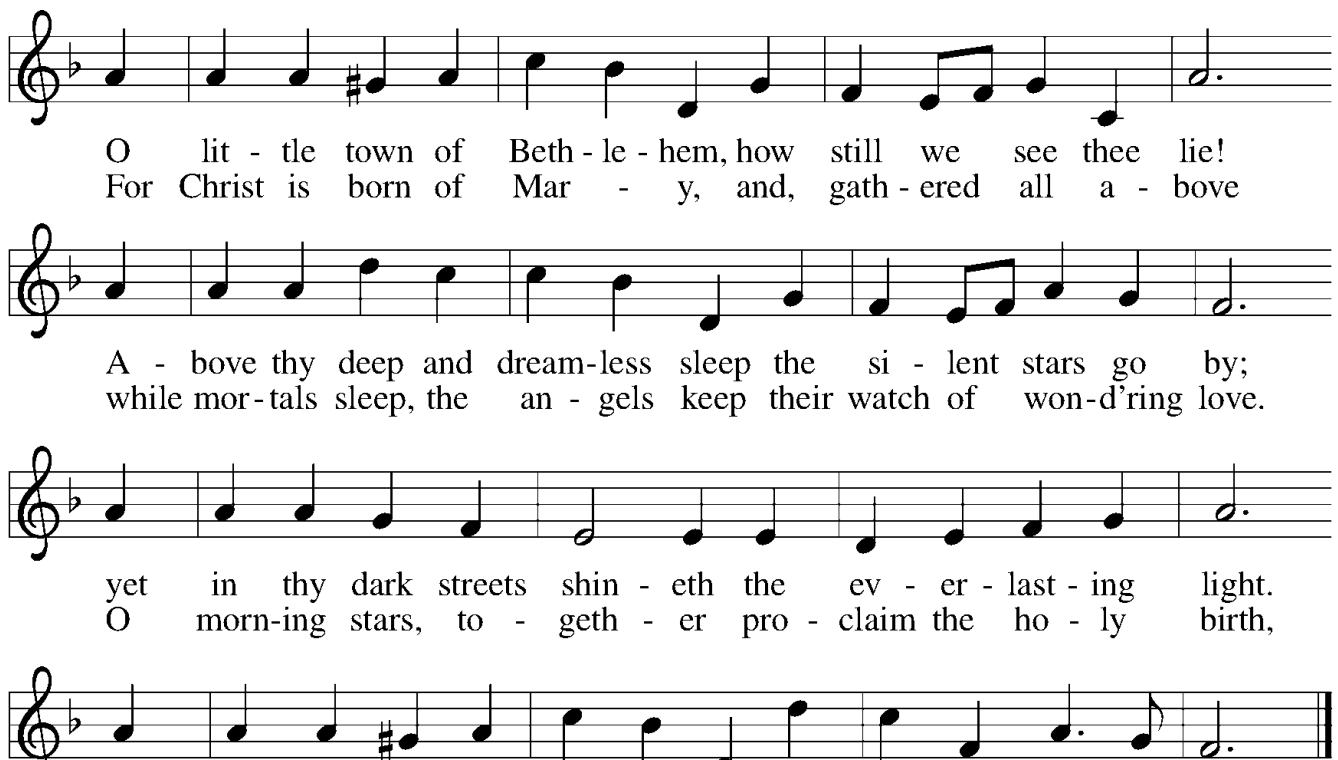
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

## Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

<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.

### Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" verses 1 & 2

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

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.

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,

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!

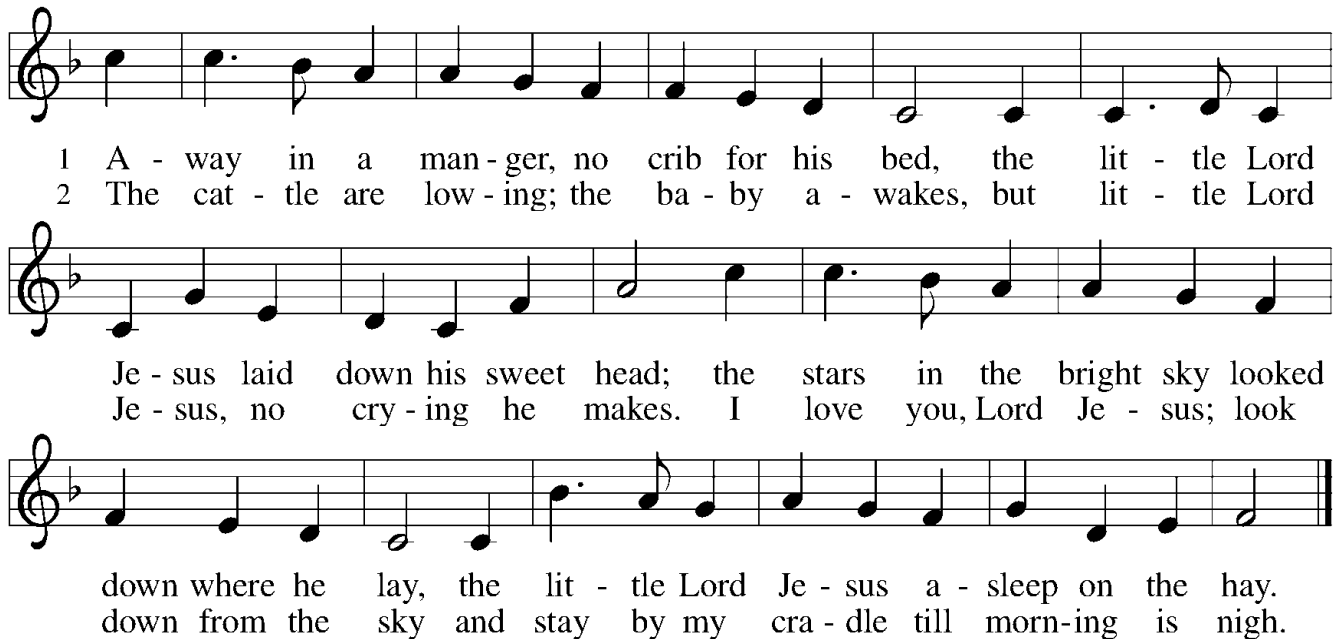
Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893  
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## Reading: Luke 2:1-7

<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 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 in the guest room.

### Carol: "Away in a 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 nigh.

## Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Text: North American, 19th cent.

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

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same 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> and 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, just as it had been told them.

**Carol:** “Angels We Have Heard on High” verses 1-3

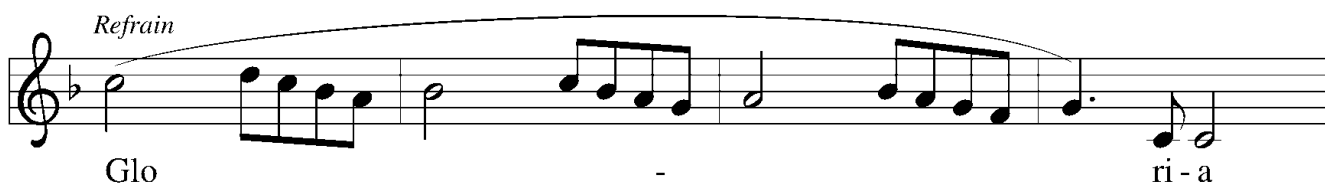
ELW #289



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.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



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

# Children's Sermon

## Sermon

Rev. Jon Strasman, Pastor

## Carol: "Love Has Come" verses 1-3

ELW #292

*please stand as you are able*



- 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!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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## Prayers of the People

L Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

## The Offering

*you may be seated*

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



## Special Music

3 PM "Mary, Did You Know?"

Norah Spanbauer

Words by Buddy Greene & Music by Mark Lowry

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

## Offering Prayer

*please stand as you are able*

C **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.**

## 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** God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

### 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;

*Song continues on next page*



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: “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

ELW #282



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.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876  
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

## Table Blessing

*please stand as you are able*

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 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.

## 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

<sup>1</sup> 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 overtake 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 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, born! sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 birth, Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 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 Glory to God in the highest!

C And peace to God's people on earth!

P Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C Thanks be to God.

*If you are not planning on taking this  
bulletin with you, please return it.  
We will be reusing these bulletins for  
all of our worship services today.*