

*Christmas Eve  
Service of  
Lessons and Carols*



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, MENASHA, WI

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

## THE HYMN OF INVOCATION - *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



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!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



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:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*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!

## THE BIDDING PRAYER

*Stand*

- P** With joy in response to the good news that a Savior is born, let us pray and praise God and join the heavenly song of angels saying, "Glory be to God on high."
- P** Merciful and loving God, in the birth of Your Son You gave peace on earth. Grant that Your holy Christian Church may rejoice in the gladness of our redemption and treasure all these things in our hearts, that we may join the heavenly song of angels saying,
- C** **Glory be to God on high.**
- P** Give boldness to all pastors of Your Church to proclaim the good news of great joy to all people, that all may join the heavenly song of angels saying,
- C** **Glory be to God on high.**
- P** Grant courage to our President and all in authority over us, especially to those who serve in the armed forces of our nation, that we may live at peace with one another and join the heavenly song of angels saying,
- C** **Glory be to God on high.**

**P** O God, You gave Your Son to be born for us in lowly circumstances. Remember, we pray, those who have little joy: the homeless, hungry, and oppressed. Give hope to the lonely and shut-in of our parish. Grant peace and healing to the sick and suffering and those in the hospital. Guide the journeys of those who travel. Comfort those who mourn. Create a new and contrite heart in the erring, and faith in those who have not heard the good news. May Your love to us flow through our lives and be a blessing to others so that with us they may join the heavenly song of angels saying,

**C** **Glory be to God on high.**

**P** Lord God, make a manger in the hearts of all who come to Your altar this day, that they may have a share in the life of Him who came to share our humanity and join the heavenly song of angels saying,

**C** **Glory be to God on high.**

**P** In the birth of Your Son, O God, You have clothed us with eternal life. We remember with thanksgiving all those who have died in the faith. Unite our voices with theirs that we may join the heavenly song of angels saying,

**C** **Glory be to God on high.**

**P** These prayers and praises we humbly offer to Your throne of grace along with the heavenly song of angels; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*







1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

## THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

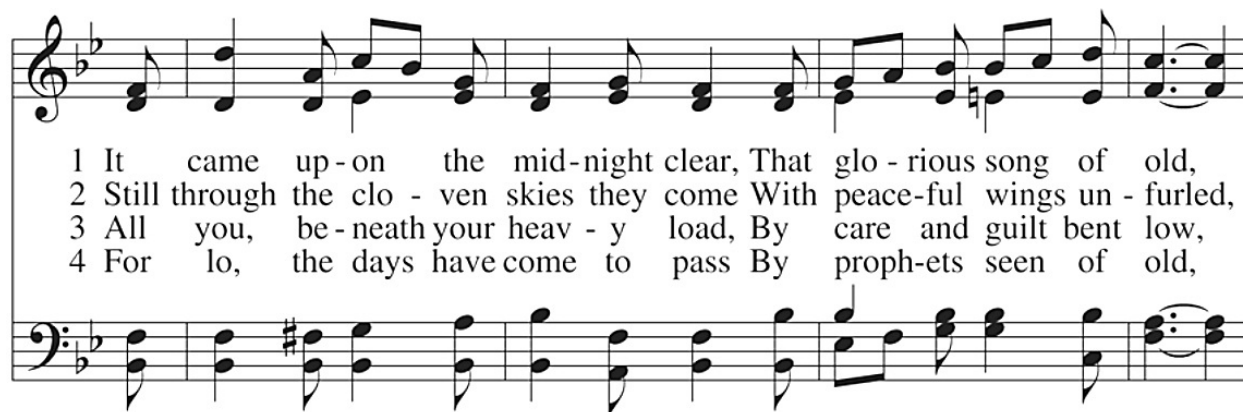
**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

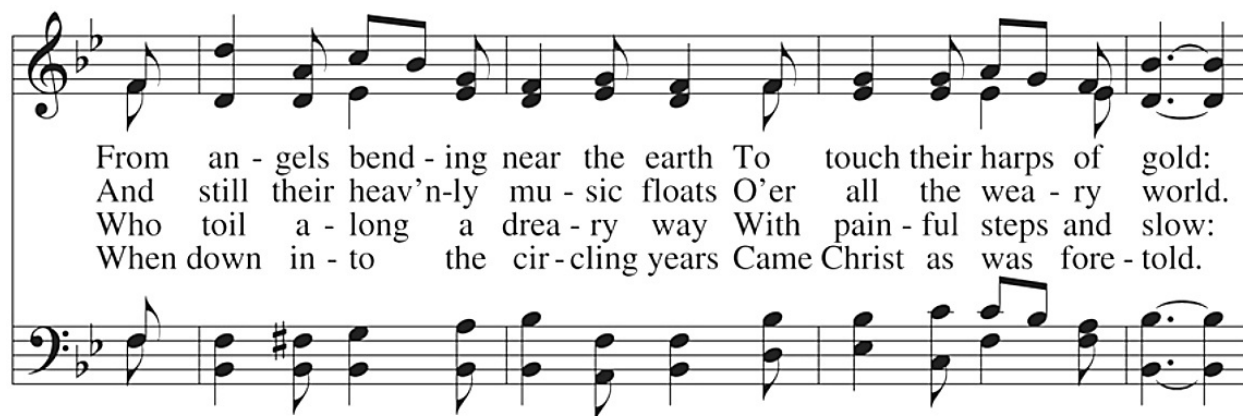


# THE RESPONSORY HYMN - *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

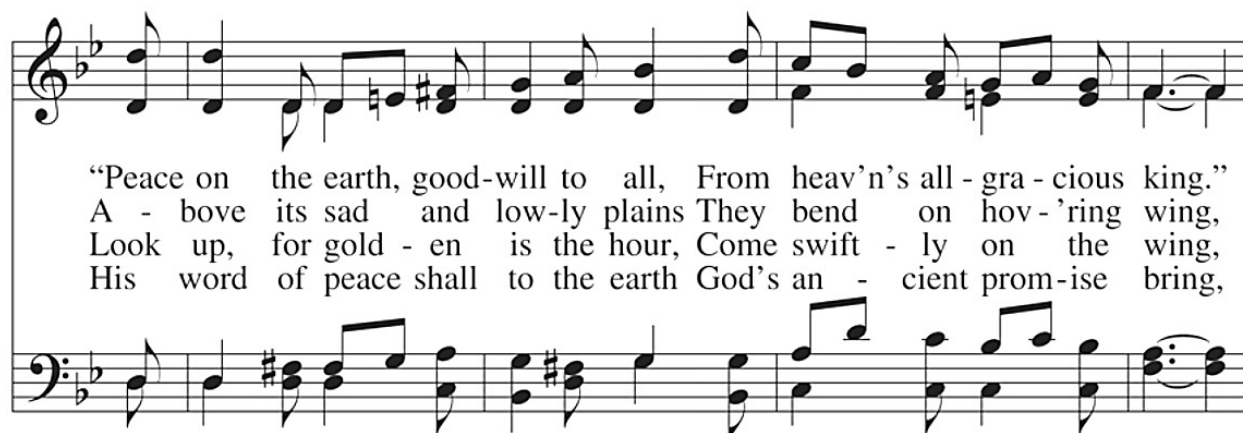
LSB 366



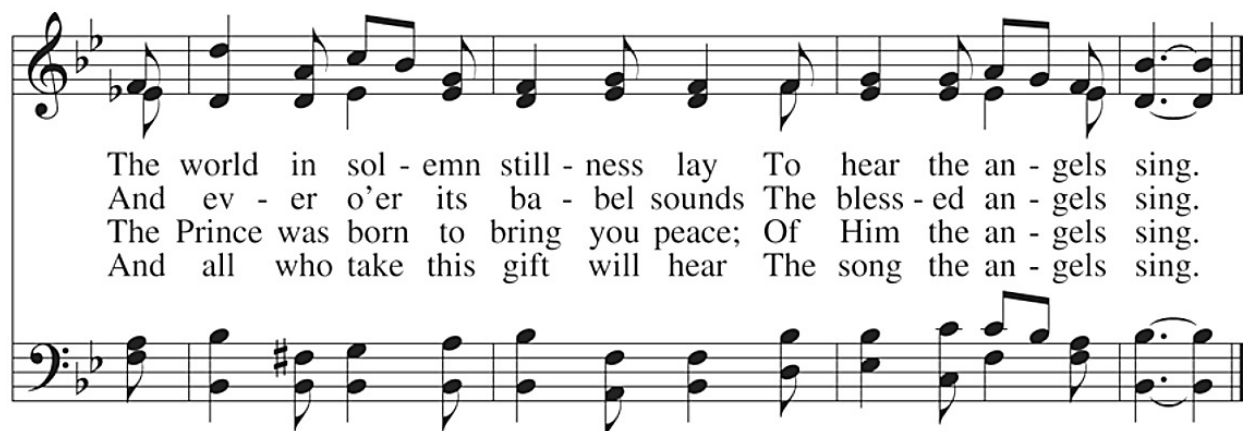
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



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.

## THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

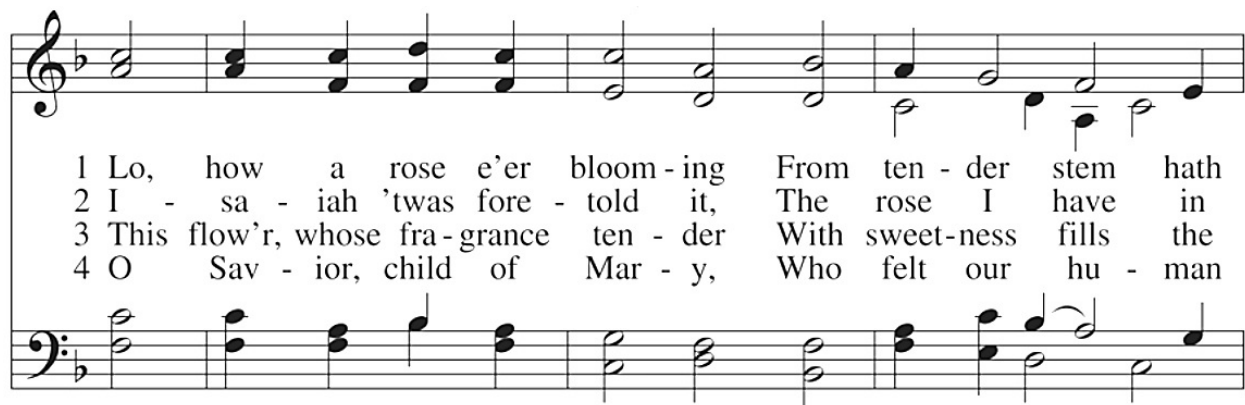
<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide 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.

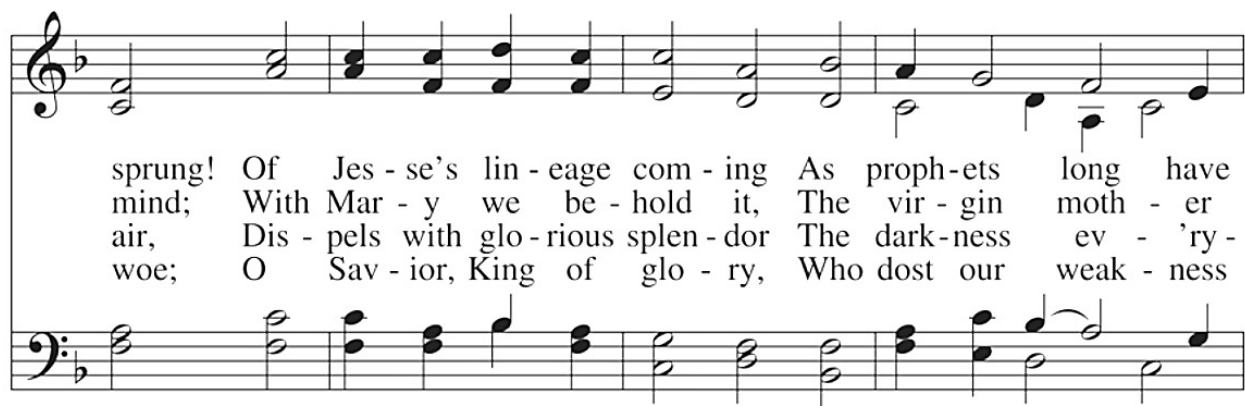
**C** Thanks be to God!

## THE RESPONSORY HYMN - *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

LSB 359



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness

sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright

cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

*Stand*

## THE THIRD LESSON

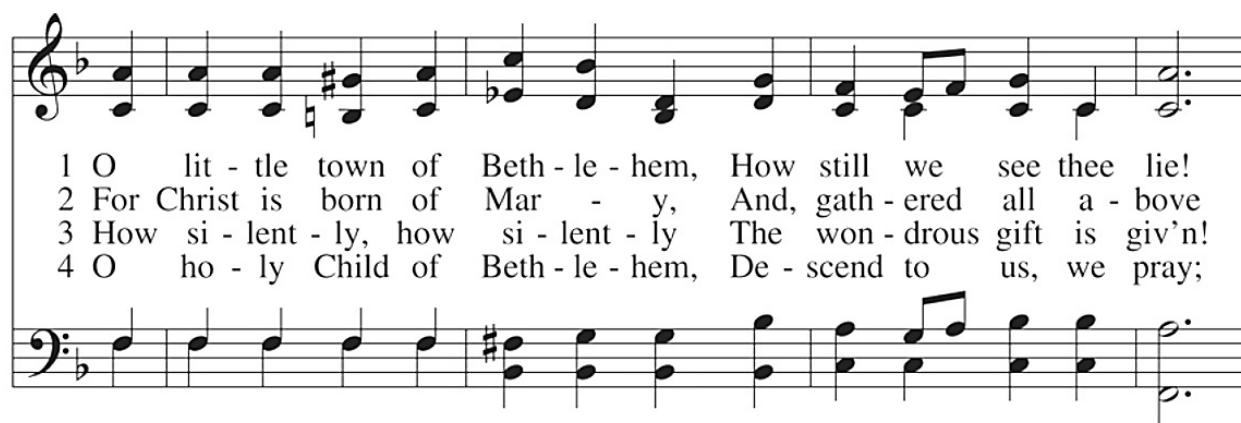
Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,  
<sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's  
 name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with  
 you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this  
 might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with  
 God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name  
 Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give  
 to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of  
 his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am  
 a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of  
 the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son  
 of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this  
 is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God."  
<sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."  
 And the angel departed from her.

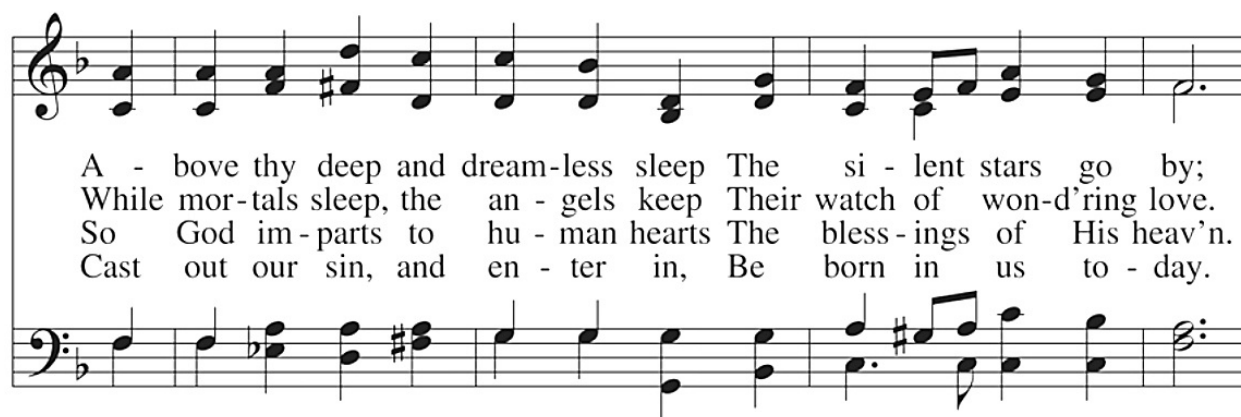
**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

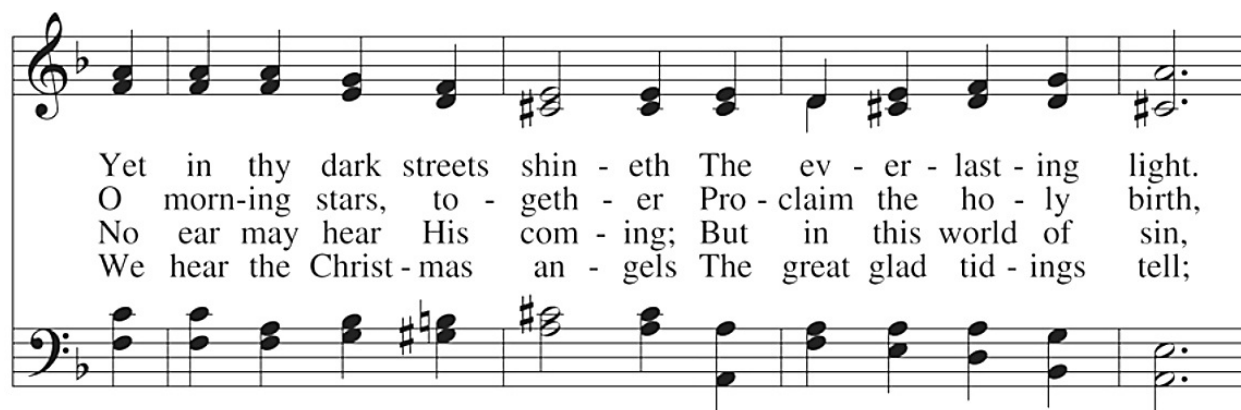
*Sit*



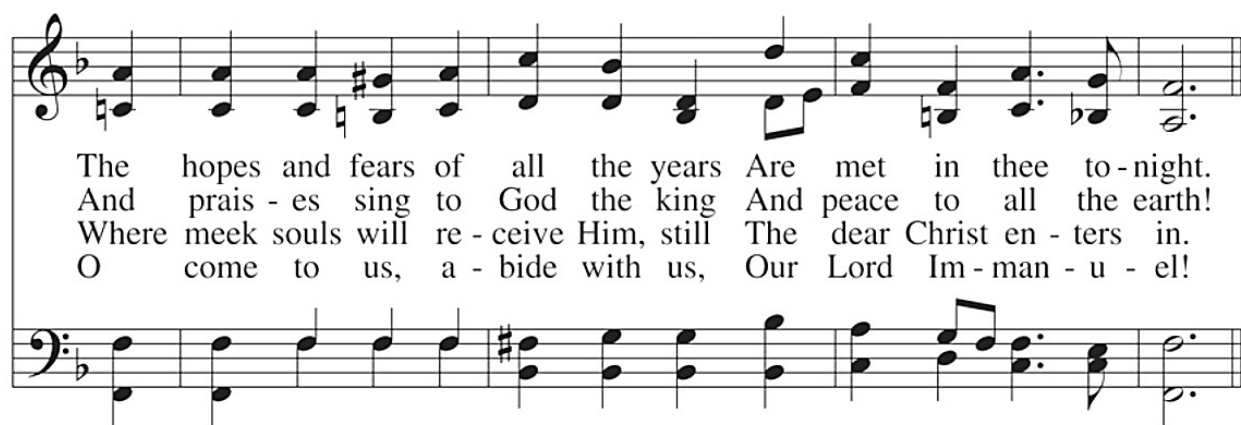
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



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.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

*Stand*

<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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God! *(Sit)*

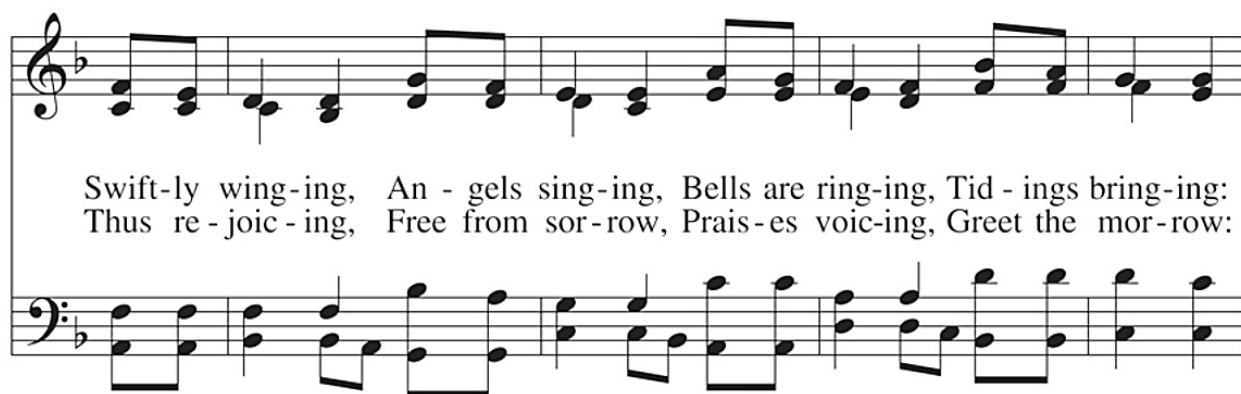




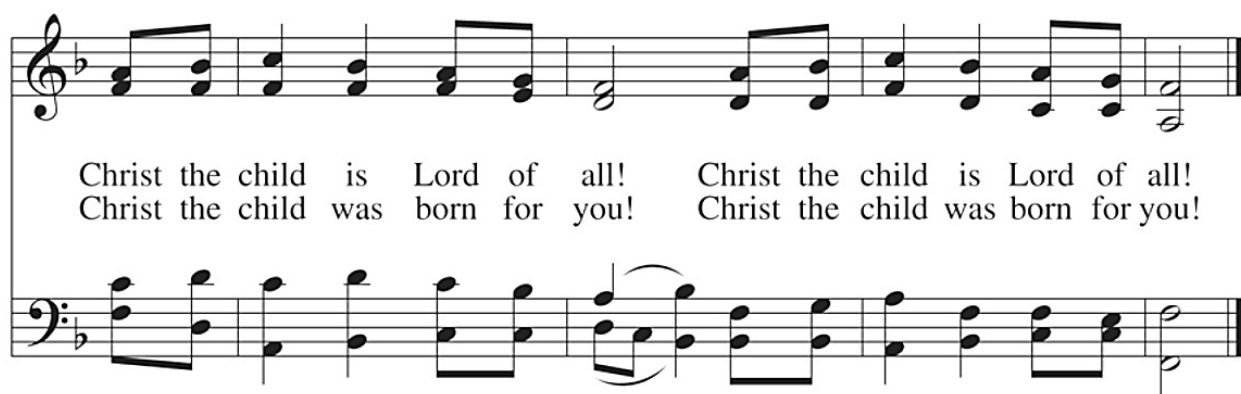
1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



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!



## THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

*Stand*

<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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God!

*Sit*



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.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in a key of B-flat major (two flats). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system includes three numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system continues the lyrics. The fourth system concludes the hymn with a final double bar line.



## THE SIXTH LESSON

1 John 4:7-11

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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

**C** Thanks be to God!



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!

## THE SERMON

### THE MAGNIFICAT - *My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord*

LSB 934

1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y

leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -

gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

## THE OFFERING

## THE COLLECT

**P** O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## THE BLESSING

**P** May He who by His incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

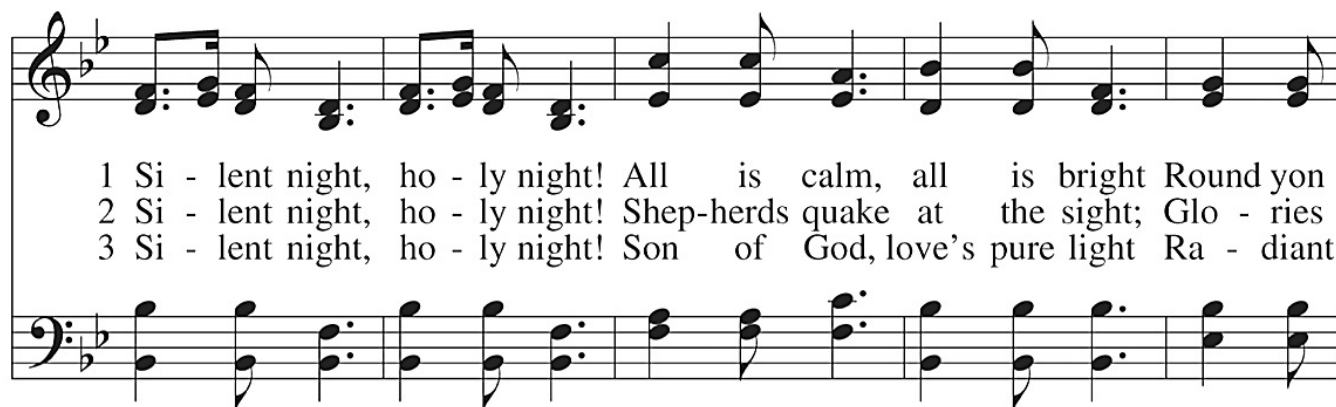
**C** Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

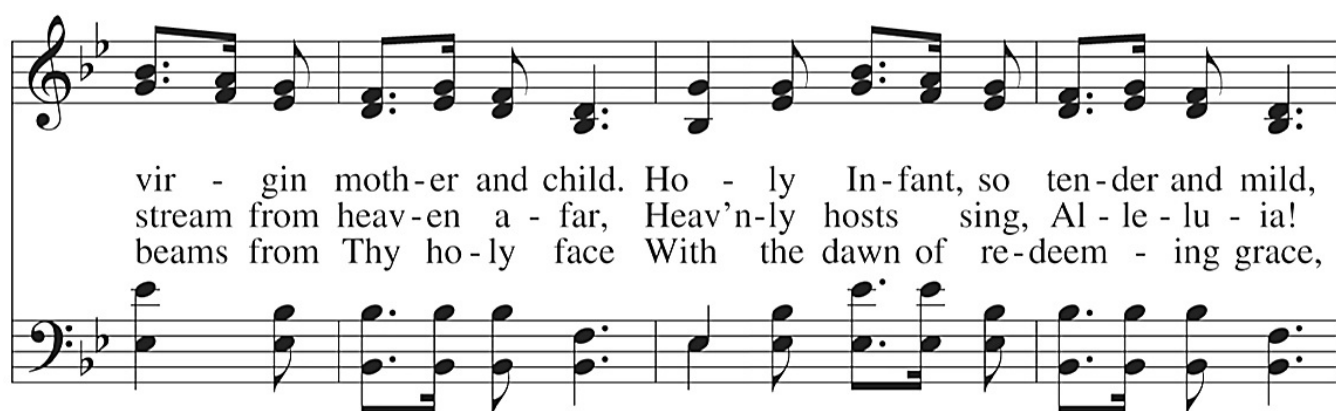
**P** Let us go forth in the Name of the Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God!





1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



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

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

## **THE VIGIL SERVICE**

Tonight's worship is modeled on the well-known "Service of Lessons and Carols," instituted by Archbishop Benson of Truro Cathedral, England, and modified by The Reverend Milner-White, Dean of King's College, Cambridge. It has been broadcast by the BBC from Cambridge since 1938. A "vigil" service is a service of preparation, in the present case, for communion on Christmas Day (the "Christ Mass"). The vigil services of the ancient church consisted, as ours tonight, of readings from the Bible and the people's response in "hymns, praises and spiritual songs" (Colossians 3:16). May the Word of God tonight inspire you with the Holy Spirit for Christmas peace and holy joy!