



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
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Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
David B. Richards, Parish Musician
Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence as indicated by the line: "Other intercessions may be added here." You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24th, 2022 ✚ 7:15 p.m.

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

HOLY COMMUNION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Christmas String Medley*

***CHRISTMAS CALL TO WORSHIP**

Here is the emptiness of my night
 may it be filled with your glory
Here are the silences of my heart
 may they be filled with your songs

Here is the watchfulness of my eyes
 may they be opened to wonder
Here is the listening of my soul
 may it hear the joy of your love

Here is the hopefulness of my journey
 may it lead me swift to your side
Here is the searching of my anxious mind
 may it find rest in your peace

Here is the wood and straw of my days
 may they be a bed for your presence
And here is the humble cave of my life
 may it be your home, gentle Savior.

by lectionary poet Andrew King

*GREETING

The grace that is Christ's gift to us, the love of God, and the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace be with you all.

And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people.

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.
You 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.
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.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.
His 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

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

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

BELL CHOIR

Joy to the World



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke...
Glory to you, O Lord.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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

The gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

CHORAL ANTHEM

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

***CREED**

Hand-held candles will be lit by the choir members and remain so though the prayers.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As heaven and earth rejoice, let us pray for the needs of the church and all the world.

Your great compassion, O God, has increased our joy. Give us gratitude each day for your light and the bread of life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Because of your generosity, the trees clap their hands, the deep waters teem with varied creatures, and the stars burn with distant fire. Make us grateful for all that you call us to nurture and protect. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Because you know our need for order, you give us nations, cities, and neighborhoods. Help us to welcome the expertise of leaders, to uphold their good direction, and to oppose what harms the vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Because you are a God of healing and renewal, you make whole what is broken. We beg your mercy on all who find this time of year a burden. Strengthen the grieving and comfort those who struggle with addictions. We pray especially for those we name aloud or silently... . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have given us to each other. Give us hearts that remember your Christmas gifts beyond this night. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those before us who witnessed to your presence, taught us to pray, and strengthened us in the truth, especially..., and all with whom we share the feast of eternal life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

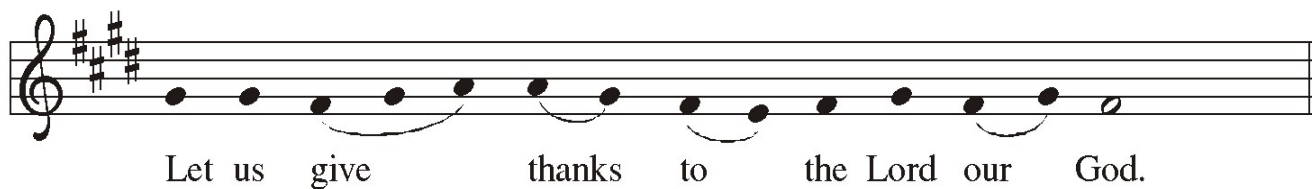
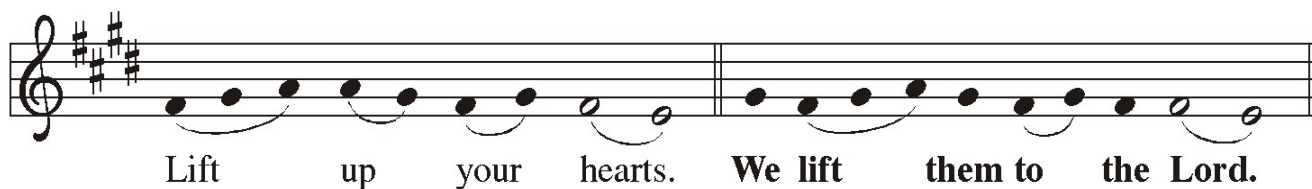
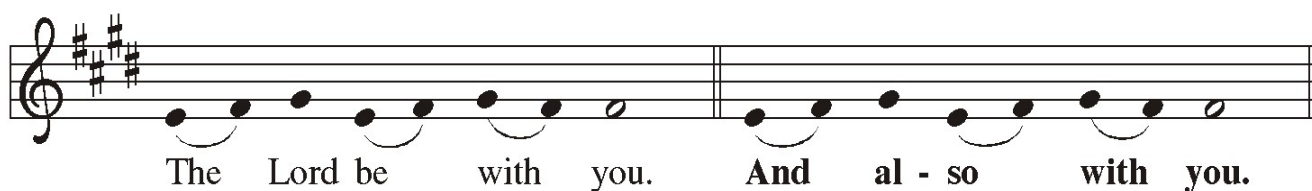
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*DIALOGUE



*PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the fourth line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia.

And dwelt among us. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia.

DISTRIBUTION

Cradle Song

Reger

***BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace. **Amen.**

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Almighty and Eternal God, on this night you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the One foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen**

***SENDING HYMN**

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

As the hymn begins, hand-held candles will be lit from the side aisles.

***DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

John Broussard

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Carrie Watkiss

HANDBELL COORDINATOR

Linda Painter

VIOLINISTS

Kristine Boike and Olivia Lauritsen

VIOLIST

Hannah Boike

CELLIST

Isabelle Boike

LECTOR

Fred Kuzel

GREETERS

Philip and Linda Painter

USHER

John Kostelny

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

HOLY NIGHT

Thousands upon thousands of candles will be lit tonight in worship, remembering that silent night when our Lord was born. Each candle, whether held by a nine-year-old or a ninety-year-old, will reflect a prayer for hope: Hope that life will be what it is promised to be in Baptism, in the Lord's Supper, in the best of times the community of Christ is gathered. Hope that forgiveness in Christ will wash away the pain of broken relationships, broken hearts, broken lives. Hope that by Jesus' cross and resurrection, death will truly be no more. Hope that through him, illness will grow into health. Hope that through him, love will overcome hate, goodness will indeed triumph over evil, poverty and hunger will one day end.

Raise your candle high tonight! Look around and see all the light around you, ahead of you, behind you. It's more than a sentimental evening, made up of memories of Christmases past. It's the stuff of life and death going on here. For all that is promised in Christ is given in him. When he promises in baptism that you will be made new, he gives what he says. Your own life will bear witness to this transforming love! When he promises in the Supper that you are forgiven, the sin that would weigh you down is removed. When Christ promises to be in the midst of even two or three who gather in his name, whether they are experiencing joy or sorrow, he is there, renewing community, giving community, birthing community. Look at the light you hold. The candle in your hand bears witness to the One who opens the future for you and for the world itself. It is a holy night. We are not left to ourselves. The Savior is here, in the child of this night.



CHRISTMAS DAY
December 25th, 2022 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's Gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the Holy Table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

HOLY COMMUNION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

***CHRISTMAS CALL TO WORSHIP**

Here is the emptiness of my night
may it be filled with your glory
Here are the silences of my heart
may they be filled with your songs

Here is the watchfulness of my eyes
may they be opened to wonder
Here is the listening of my soul
may it hear the joy of your love

Here is the hopefulness of my journey
may it lead me swift to your side
Here is the searching of my anxious mind
may it find rest in your peace

Here is the wood and straw of my days
may they be a bed for your presence
And here is the humble cave of my life
may it be your home, gentle Savior.

by lectionary poet Andrew King

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God, you were before time began and came into the world to save us.

Blessed are you, Sun of Righteousness, you shine with the Father's love and illumine the whole universe.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary; born a child, you shared our humanity.

Let heaven and earth ring out their praise.

O Mystery of the Word made flesh, with all the voices of heaven, we celebrate your coming as our Savior.

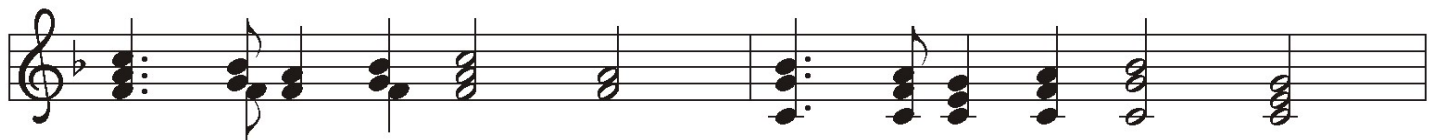
Let men and women and angels sing of your glory.

O Splendor the Father's Light, with all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at your birth.

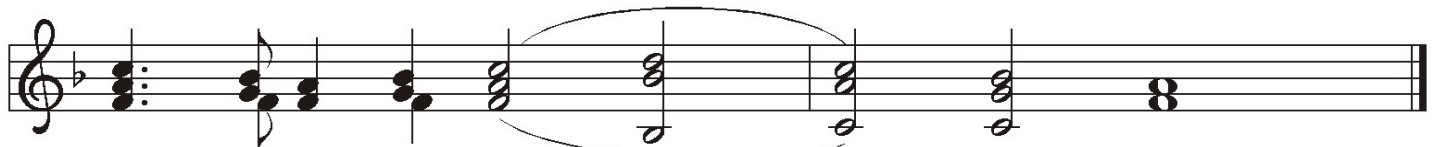
Praise and honor and glory to you, O Incarnate Word.

*KYRIE

Lord Have Mercy



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
Chris - te e - lei - son.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!" In comforting the people, God proves to be the best redeemer they have ever known. Everyone will witness the victory (salvation) of God.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

The Holy Gospel according to St. John
Glory to you, O Lord.

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

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

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

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHRISTMAS READING

Charles Matthies



***CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As heaven and earth rejoice, let us pray for the needs of the church and all the world.

We give you thanks for the body of Christ in every land. Your people stand for peace and joy, like sentinels on the mountain. We pray for continued wisdom to live your will. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for this beautiful world—for waterways, deserts, forests, and prairies; for creatures large and small; for plants that feed and offer shelter. We pray for continued good care of this earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the many nations on earth—for people who teach us new ways to dance and to sing; for languages that help us learn new names. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for those who see the struggles of neighbors and offer help. We pray for newborns and the aged; for those who are in mourning and those who fight depression; for refugees and homeless people; for those with no one to accompany them in their final days; and for those we name in our hearts or aloud... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for our sisters and brothers in faith. We pray that your generous Spirit will comfort and challenge us throughout the coming year. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially... As you cradle your people in your merciful arms, bring us at last with all the saints into life eternal. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

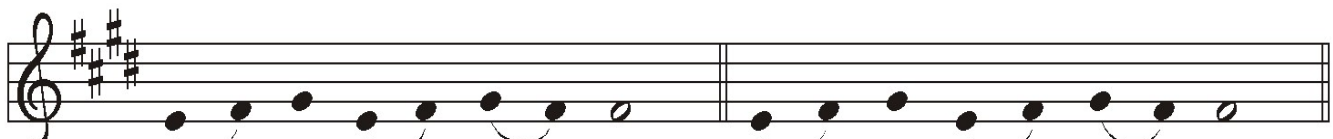
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.


*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty and Eternal God, we are mindful of the supreme gift that you have given us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. We bring as well the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and for others. Hear our prayers and accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born this day, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**


*DIALOGUE



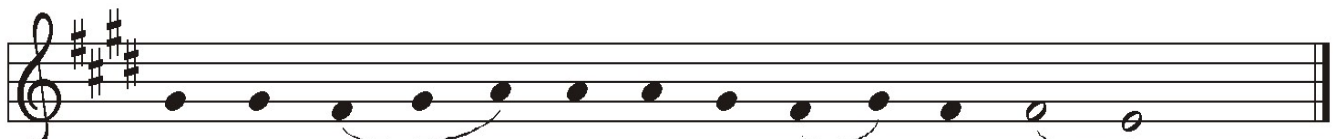
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

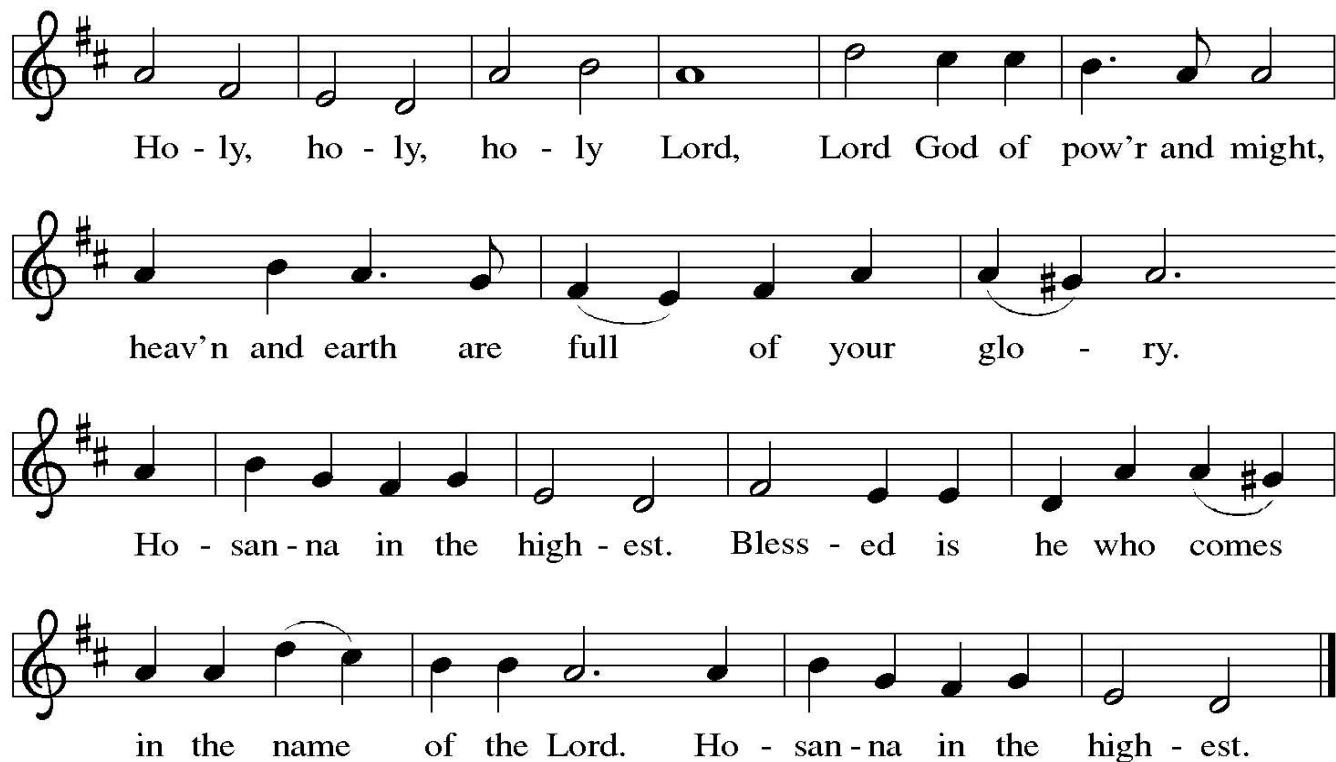


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**



***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia.
And dwelt among us. Alleluia, alleluia.
Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia.

DISTRIBUTION

*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty and Eternal God, on this night you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the One foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

LECTOR

Jane Lauritsen

GREETERS

Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik

USHER

John Kostelny

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

Thank you to the following households who purchased poinsettias to decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for our Christmas services.

Ruth Bakalich

Charlene Patula

Karyn Minarcin Bute

Martin and Ann Pennino

John and Shirley Kostelny

Tina Rothstein and Family

Fred Kuzel

The Slahor and Babyar Families

Esther Meksto

The Family of Shirley Wood

The Family of Steve Michael

The Mocek Family



HOLY NIGHT

Thousands upon thousands of candles will be lit tonight in worship, remembering that silent night when our Lord was born. Each candle, whether held by a nine-year-old or a ninety-year-old, will reflect a prayer for hope: Hope that life will be what it is promised to be in baptism, in the Lord's supper, in the best of times the community of Christ is gathered. Hope that forgiveness in Christ will wash away the pain of broken relationships, broken hearts, broken lives. Hope that by Jesus' cross and resurrection, death will truly be no more. Hope that through him, illness will grow into health. Hope that through him, love will overcome hate, goodness will indeed triumph over evil, poverty and hunger will one day end.

Raise your candle high tonight! Look around and see all the light around you, ahead of you, behind you. It's more than a sentimental evening, made up of memories of Christmases past. It's the stuff of life and death going on here. For all that is promised in Christ is given in him. When he promises in baptism that you will be made new, he gives what he says. Your own life will bear witness to this transforming love! When he promises in the Supper that you are forgiven, the sin that would weigh you down is removed. When Christ promises to be in the midst of even two or three who gather in his name, whether they are experiencing joy or sorrow, he is there, renewing community, giving community, birthing community. Look at the light you hold. The candle in your hand bears witness to the one who opens the future for you and for the world itself. It is a holy night. We are not left to ourselves. The Savior is here, in the child of this night.

