



*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*5:00 p.m.*

*December 24, 2022*

*“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a vibrant  
congregation that shares the love of Christ with each other,  
the community, and the world.”*

# **The Nativity of Our Lord**

Congregational responses are in bold print

*We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this wonderful evening of light, music, the Holy Word and fellowship. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card. We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available please inform Communion Assistant of your need.*

*We have 4 assisted listening units that are simple to operate. They consist of a small unit with an earpiece and volume control, each unit is replaced after each use. See the ushers to use one today.*

*Restrooms: Located to your left as you face the rear of the church.*

*During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in bold type. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to stand, please do so as you are able. As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.*

## **Welcome**

**Pastor Pingel**

## **Choral Introit: "Gaudete"**

**Worship Choir**

**Arr. Burkhardt**

Gaudete! Gaudete!  
Christus est natus ex Maria virgine;  
Gaudete!

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Christ is born of the Virginia Mary:  
Rejoice!

## **First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

A reading from Isaiah:

<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 the nation, 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.

***Continued***

<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>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!**

### **Prelude**

*“Looking for the Light”*

**Worship Choir**

**Schram**

“Christmas Medley”

- “We Three Kings”
- “Away in a Manager”
- “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

**Adult Handbells  
Sam Moyer, Director**

**Arr. Kinyon**

“Down in the City of David”

**Worship Choir  
Charles Wilson, Soloist**

**Stratton/Courtney**

***We stand.***

**Entrance Hymn:** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

**#283, Page 4**

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

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,  
 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*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 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

### **Invocation**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

### **Prayer of the Day**

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.**

*We sit*

### **Christmas Gospel - Luke 2:1-20**

*Grace Families will read the Christmas Story, and in a tradition spanning many decades, "build" the Crèche scene that is told in Luke chapter 2, with wooden figures donated for the purpose of being used in worship.*

#### **Section - Luke 2:1-4**

**The Blosser/Mahoney Family**

*The Christmas Gospel According to St. Luke*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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.

*Unto us is born a Savior.*

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**#279, Page 6, Verses 1, 4**

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

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

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

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

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

## Section 2 - Luke 2:5-7

## The Bokelman Family

*The Christmas Gospel According to St. Luke*

<sup>5</sup>Joseph 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 for them in the inn.

*Unto us is born a Savior.*

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*“Once in Royal David’s City”*

**#269, Page 8, Verses 1, 2, 4**

## Section 3 - Luke 2:8-12

## The Hilker Family

*The Christmas Gospel According to St. Luke*

<sup>8</sup>In that 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.”

*Unto us is born a Savior.*

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

**#289, Page 9, Verses 1, 2**



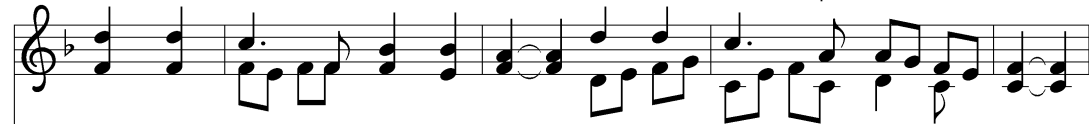
# Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876



## Angels We Have Heard on High

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.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

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

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

**Section 4 - Luke 2:13-16**

**The Franklin Family**

*The Christmas Gospel According to St. Luke*

<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.

*Unto us is born a Savior.*

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”*

**#270, Page 11**

**Section 5 - Luke 2:17-20**

**The Caister Family**

*The Christmas Gospel According to St. Luke*

<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>But 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, as it had been told them.

*Unto us is born a Savior.*

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

**#289, Page 10, Verse 3**



## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 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!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 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

*The children are invited to gather at the Crèche during the singing.*

"*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*"

#276, Page 13, Verse 1

**Children's Sermon**

**Pastor Pingel**

*The children may return to their seats during the singing.*

"*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*"

#276, Page 13, Verse 2

*We stand.*

**Apostles Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The  
Apostles'  
+ Creed +

## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



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!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.  
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

### Prayers of Intercession

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**Amen.**

### Peace

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!  
**Peace on earth, goodwill to all people.**

*On this Christmas Eve, you may greet one another with a sign of blessing and witness to one another by saying "Jesus Christ is the Light of the World." Please be mindful of those with Covid/flu concerns as you greet one another.*

*We sit*

### Offering

*All loose offering (bills and change) - and checks made payable to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church with Renewing Homes noted in the memo line will be given to the Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta. Renewing Homes provides - at no cost to a homeowner - critical home repairs and modifications for low-income elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged homeowners. Grace volunteers have worked for many years on Renewing Homes projects. Your donation will help with materials required that enable people to stay in their homes.*

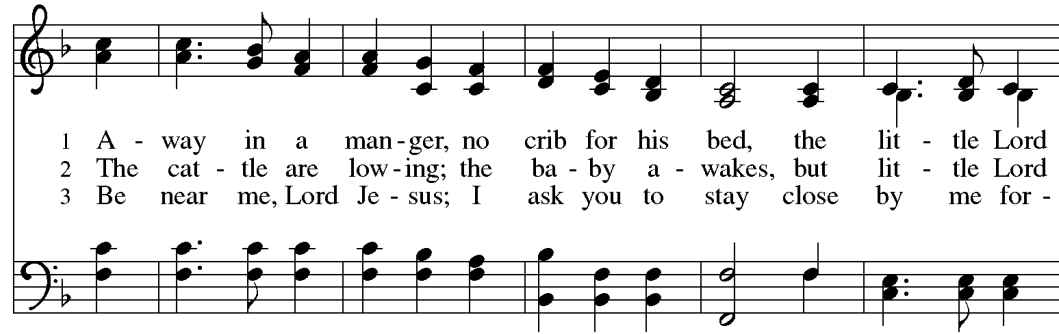
*All envelopes (and checks made out to Grace Lutheran Church without a memo designation to Renewing Homes) will be given to Grace and its ministries.*

**Anthem:** "Do You Know the Way to Bethlehem"  
**Worship Choir**

**Wagner**

*We stand.*

# Away in a Manger



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  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



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  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



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.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

### Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

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.



### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*"Joy to the World"*

**# 267, Page 17, Verses 1, 3, 4**



# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 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  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 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  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

### Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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

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

Thanks be to God!

*We sit*



## The Holy Communion

*The congregation may be seated.*

*OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)*

*Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle. Receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister, then turn to the side you have sat on, and receive the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant at the altar rail. Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your pew via the side aisle.*

*After receiving bread and wine, you will hear the proclamation:*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*And each person may respond*

**Amen.**

**Agnus Dei:** "Who Is He In Yonder Stall?"

**Amber Bokelman, Soloist**

1. Who is he in yonder stall at whose feet the shepherds fall?
2. Lo, at midnight who is he prays in the dark Gethsemane?
3. Who is he in Calvary's throes asks for blessings on his foes?
4. Who is he that from the grave comes to heal and help and save?
5. Who is he that from yon throne rules the world of light alone?

Refrain

'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! 'Tis the Lord, the King of glory;  
at his feet we humbly fall, crown him, crown him Lord of all!



**Communion Music:**

*“The Wonder of Wonders”*

Amber Bokelman, Soloist

Wycuff

*“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

#282, Page 21

*“Lo, How A Rose E’re Blooming”*

#272, Page 23

***We stand.***

**The Communion Blessing**

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

**Amen**

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

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.**



## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

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

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had 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  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

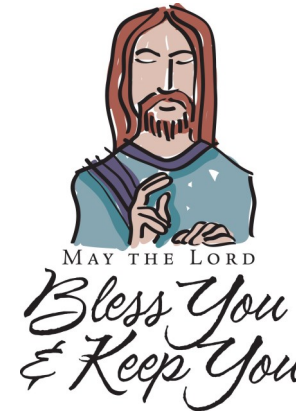
Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth,  
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## **Sending**

### **Blessing**

God bless you and keep you,  
✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**



### **Hymn Meditation for Christmas Eve: "Silent Night"**

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*In the year 1818 in the Austrian village of Oberndorf, parishioners first heard the carol "Silent Night, Holy Night". The choir director, Franz Gruber, set the words penned by Fr. Joseph Mohr to music. Fr. Mohr accompanied Gruber and himself singing the carol on the guitar, as the church organ was out of service. Tonight, we honor the origins of this beloved carol.*

### **Dismissal**

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**



### **Postlude: "I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"**

**Arr. Biery**



Silent Night, Holy Night!  
*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
 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,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
 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,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
 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

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
 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



*Thanks to Our Worship Assistants*

*Acolytes:*

*Kaitlyn Hull  
Karley Hull*

*Altar Guild:*

*Glen & Lisa Gray*

*Assisting Minister:*

*Tripp Franklin*

*Communion Assistant:*

*Quinn Franklin  
Thea Franklin*

*Council Person of the Week:*

*Andrew Sell*

*Offering Steward:*

*Jean Morgan*

*Ushers:*

*Jack Eckstrom  
Lee Lynch*



*The Church Office will be closed Friday, December 23, at noon; Monday, December 26, and Tuesday, December 27, for our staff to enjoy the holiday season with their families.*

*We hope everyone has a joyous time with family and friends.*

*May God truly bless each and everyone of you with health and happiness.*



# Poinsettias

**Poinsettias for decorating the Nave are given in memory of:**

***My Parents*** by Berenice Archambeault  
***Brian Dolan*** by the Family of Brian Dolan  
***Pete Giesen*** by Pat Giesen  
***Family Loved Ones*** by Donna Gum  
***Jerry & Sarah Gum*** by Ron & Sandy Knicely  
***Lloyd Page Kite (husband) and Kenneth P. Kite (son)*** by Phyllis Kite  
***Flossie Myers*** by Glenn Myers  
***Jimmy Binns*** by Mike and Susan Myers  
***Al and Valla Myers*** by Mike and Susan Myers  
***Charlie and Marge Parkel*** by Mike and Susan Myers  
***Vada Hepner*** by Jim & Gloria Nelson  
***Elaine Nelson*** by Jim & Gloria Nelson  
***Linda C. Owens*** by Jimmy Owens  
***Margaret Neely*** by Paul & Jill Pingel  
***Lillian Pingel*** by Paul & Jill Pingel  
***Seward & Bette Proctor, Elmer & Myrtle Swanson, Marion (Proctor) Tollisen***  
by David & Vivian Proctor  
***Parents, Aunts, Uncle, Sister*** by William Proctor  
***Dick Sheaffer*** by the Family of Dick Sheaffer  
***Mildred Shumate*** by Robert Shumate  
***Rev. & Mrs. Alfred Shumate*** by Robert Shumate  
***Brett Stein*** by Karl & Jane Stein  
***Karen Stein*** by Karl & Jane Stein



# Poinsettias

**Poinsettias for decorating the Nave are given in memory of:**

*Dick Tomey by Linda Tomey*  
*Lisa Ann Dofflemeyer (Daughter) by Linda Tomey*  
*Bob & Flo Walck by Rew & Karen Walck*  
*John & Ingrid Webber by Rew & Karen Walck*

**Poinsettias for decorating the Nave are given in honor of:**

*All members who contribute their time and talents year round for the  
worship life of the Church by Donna Gum*  
*Owen Keefer for his tireless work by Donna Gum*  
*Choirs of Grace by Mike and Susan Myers*  
*Glenna Hale and Family by Glenn Myers*  
*Our Children by Ron & Sandy Knicely*  
*Proctor and Traynor Family Loved Ones by David & Vivian Proctor*  
*Nick & Sarah Altic by Rew & Karen Walck*

***Please feel free to take your poinsettias home after the  
Christmas Eve Services or pick them up Sunday, December 25***