



Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day

12/25/22

Service of Lessons and Carols

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GOD GATHERS US AS HIS HOLY PEOPLE

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

*The pastor or lector reads the words in plain font.
The congregation responds with the words in bold font.*

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" LBW #50



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; Bright - er vis - ions beam a - far:
4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,



Ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the heav'n - ly light:
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen his na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



Come and wor - ship, Come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
Tune: Henry Smart, 1813-1879

REGENT SQUARE
87 87 and REFRAIN

LITANY

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. *Isaiah 9:2a*

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. *John 1:5*

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2b*

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. *John 1:14*

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. *Isaiah 9:6*

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. *John 1:4*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, grant that the new birth of your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set free all who are held in servitude under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 ¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day....¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

HYMN: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" LBW #54

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 - belsounds 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, alt.*
 Tune: *Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900*

CAROL
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SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-5a ²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LBW #41

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
 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

ST. LOUIS
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THIRD READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38 ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And 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..."³⁸And 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.

HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City" WOV #643

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 F. Alexander, 1818-1895
 Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

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FOURTH READING: Matthew 1:18-25 ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

HYMN: “Lo, How a Rose Is Growing” LBW #58 (Verses 1-4)

1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, A bloom of fin - est
 2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore-
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry The an - gels sang that
 4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, With fra - grance fills the

grace; The proph - ets had fore - told it: A branch of Jes - se's
 told. He came to us through Mar - y Who shel - tered him from
 night: How Christ was born of Mar - y; He was the Son of
 air; His bright - ness ends the dark - ness That kept the earth in

race Would bear one per - fect flow'r Here in the
 cold. Through God's e - ter - nal will This child to
 light. To Beth - le - hem they ran To find him
 fear. True God and yet true man, He came to

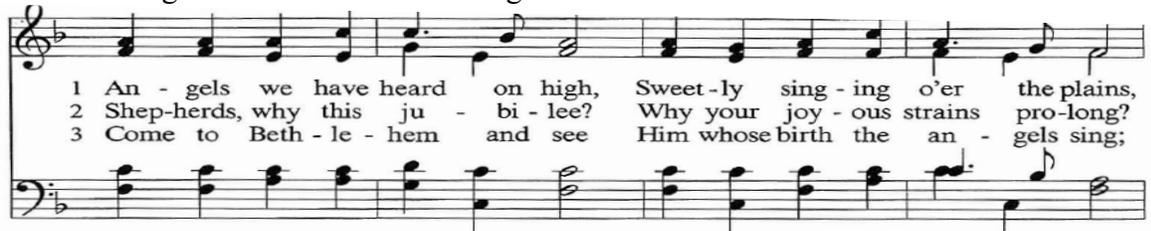
cold of win - ter And dark - est mid - night hour.
 us was giv - en At mid - night calm and still.
 in the man - ger As an - gel her - alds sang.
 save his peo - ple From earth's dark night of sin.

© Text: German, 15th cent.; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1599

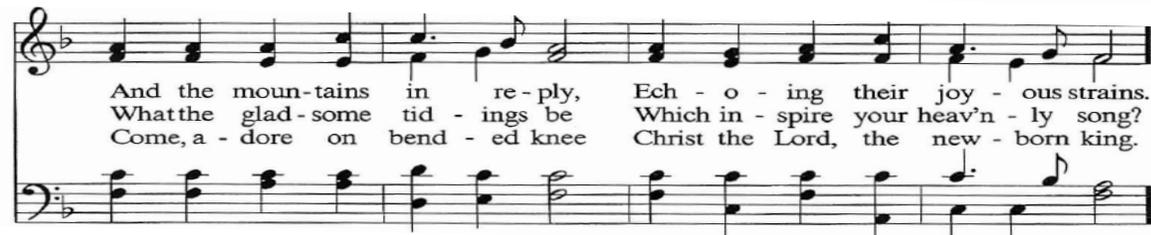
ES IST EIN ROS
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FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8-20 ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High” LBW #71



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



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

*Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1804
 Tune: French carol*

77 77 and refrain

SIXTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11 ¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

HYMN: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” WOV #646

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri -

far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 nigh; prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 fice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain
 Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty

bright; west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.
 Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT
 8 8 4 4 6 and refrain

SEVENTH READING: John 1:1-14 ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

HYMN: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" LBW #44

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.
Tune: Polish carol

W ZLOBIE LEZY
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Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" LBW #55

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce With heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce With heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce With heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
Now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, And he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, And we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all To gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*Text: medieval Latin carol; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Tune: German carol, 14th cent.*

IN DULCI JUBILO
66 77 78 55

The Nicene Creed LBW p. 64

Living together in the trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
Have mercy on those who are sick, dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
Reveal yourself to us in Word and Sacrament, that we may bear your light to all the world.

OFFERING OF PEACE *John 20:19-21*

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

Having been reconciled to God in Christ, we share His peace with others.

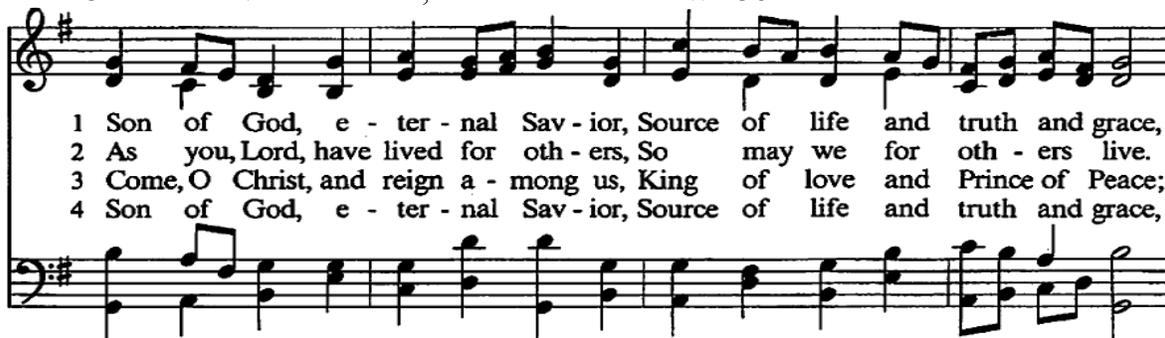
Please be seated.

OFFERING OF TITHES & ADDITIONAL GIFTS with SPECIAL MUSIC as available

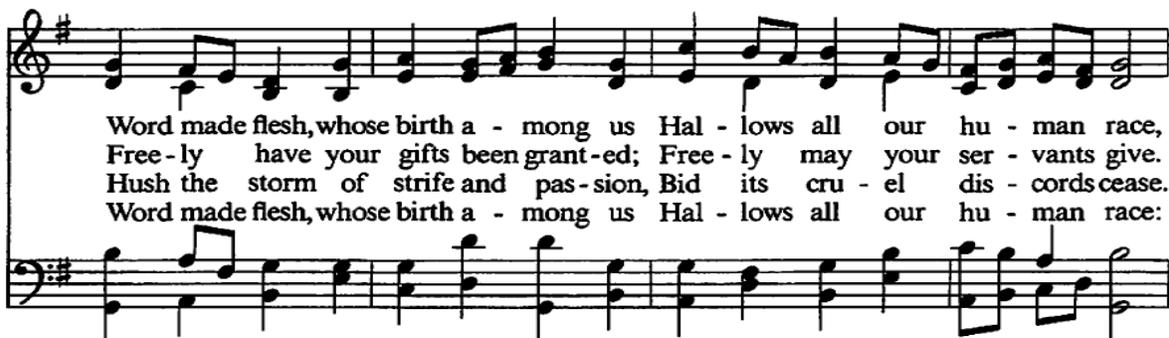
We offer our time, talents, and treasure in gratitude for all of the blessings God has given us.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY HYMN "Son of God, Eternal Savior" LBW #364



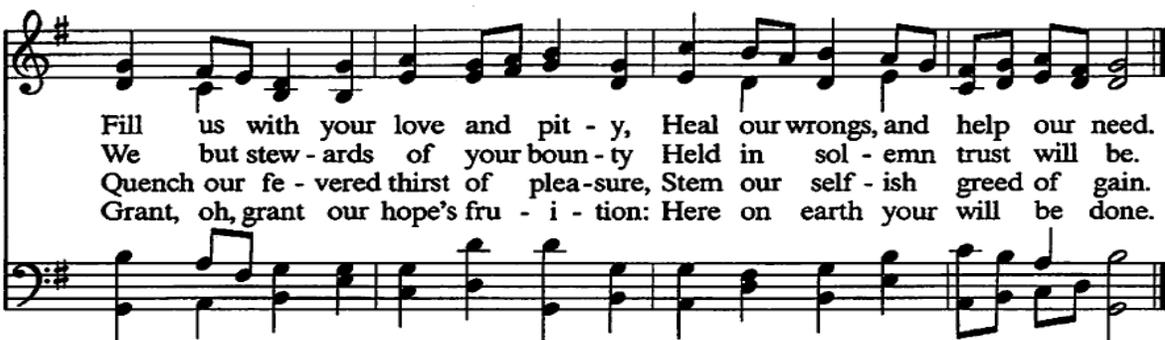
1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us Hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; Free - ly may your ser - vants give.
Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us Hal - lows all our hu - man race:



You our head, who, throned in glo - ry, For your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, By your si - lent hours of pain,
By your pray - ing, by your will - ing That your peo - ple should be one,



Fill us with your love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
We but stew - ards of your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
Quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
Grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth your will be done.

© Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932
Tune: Dutch folk tune, 18th cent.

IN BABILONE
87 87 D

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

**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.**

BENEDICTION

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
Amen

DISMISSAL

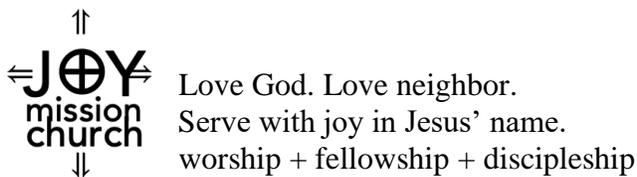
Go in peace to celebrate our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WELCOME! We are delighted to have you join us for worship today!



Who We Are - As a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church we strive to be:
Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, & Congregationally Focused.



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Ministers: Joy Mission Church

Organist: Lavenia D. Hentz

Pastor: Rev. Paulette D. McHugh

Parish Administrator: Scheri Force

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