



**First Sunday of Christmas**

**December 27, 2020**

## **THE SERVICE at 11:00 a.m.**

We are honored that you are joining our worship today. We encourage you to prepare for worship: gather the family, light candles, lay out bread and wine or grape juice. It doesn't need to be fancy, but do take the time to do what is necessary to make attending virtual worship a true spiritual practice for you. You are welcome at this meal.

### **– GATHERING –**

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Marcel Dupré

#### CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

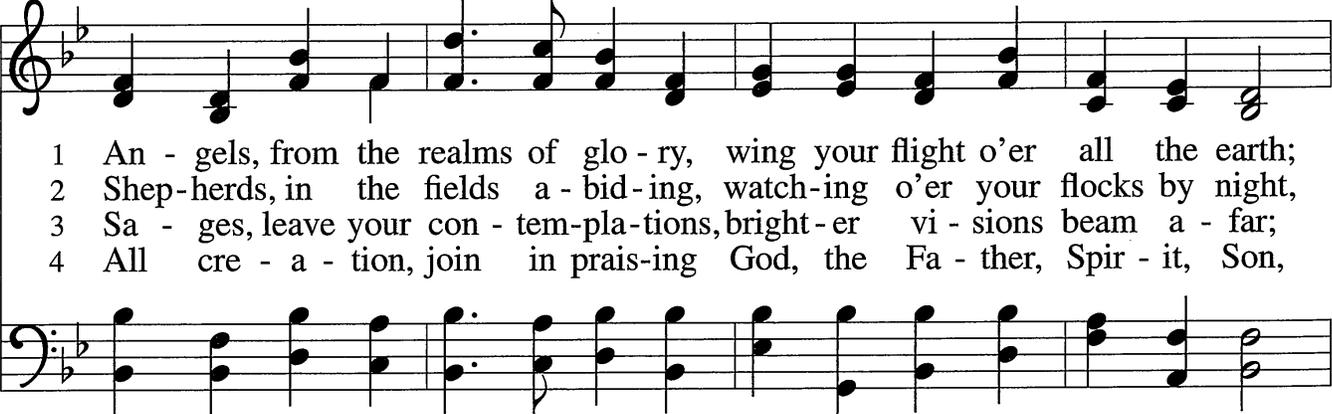
**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

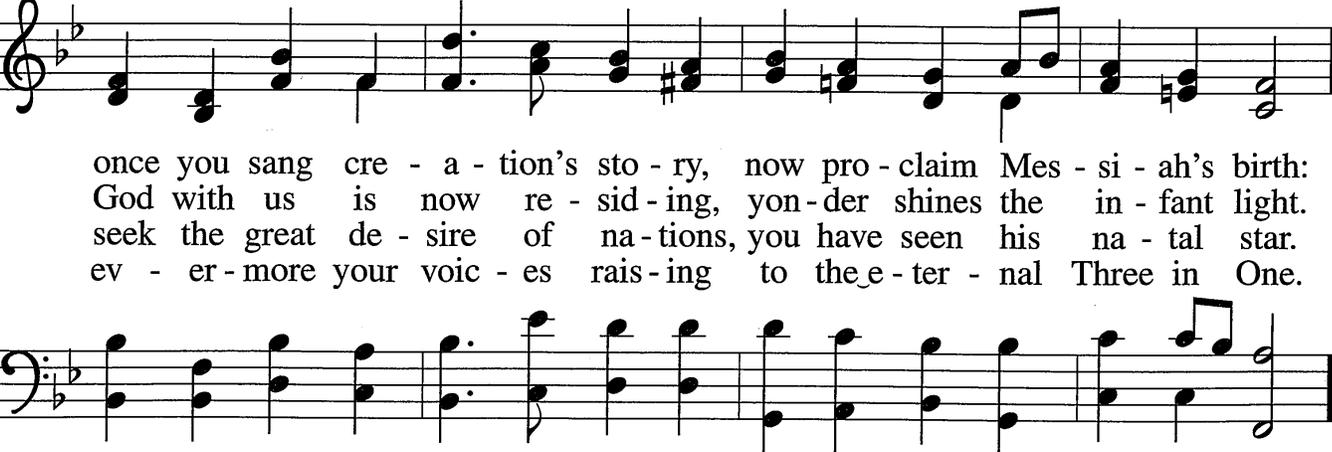
**C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.**

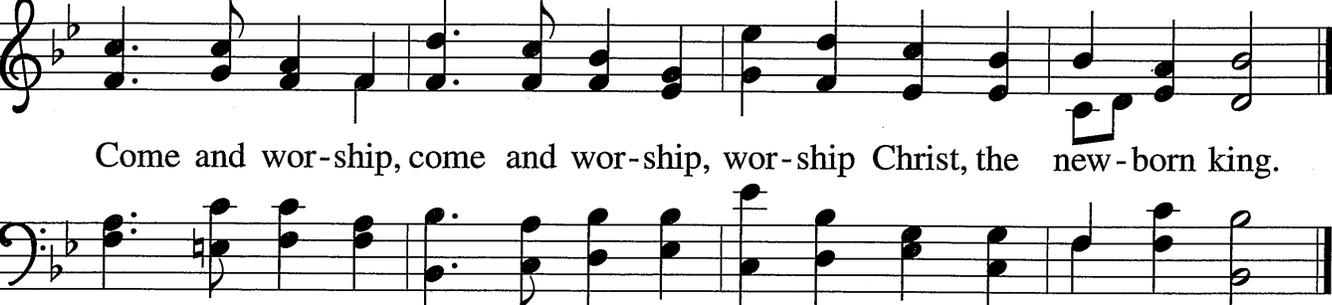


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



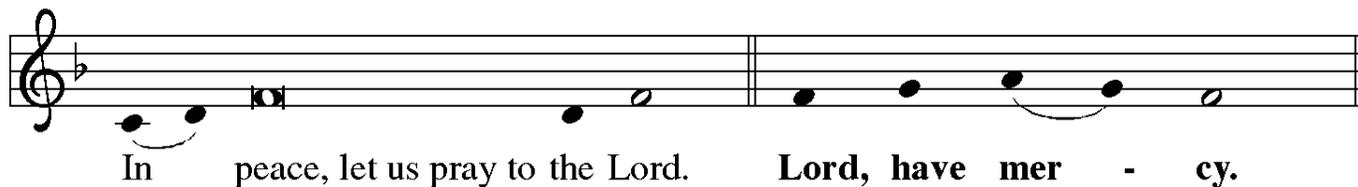
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

## GREETING

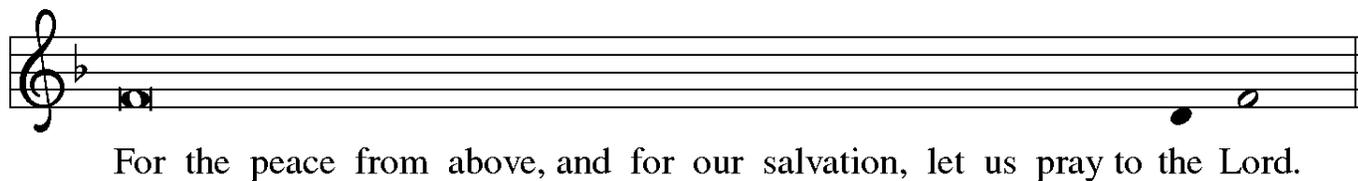
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

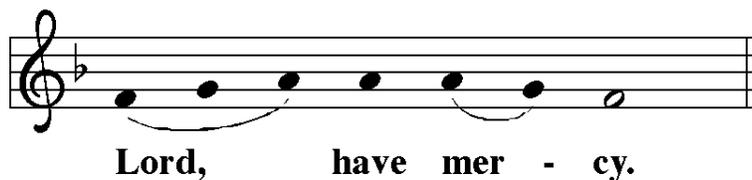
# KYRIE



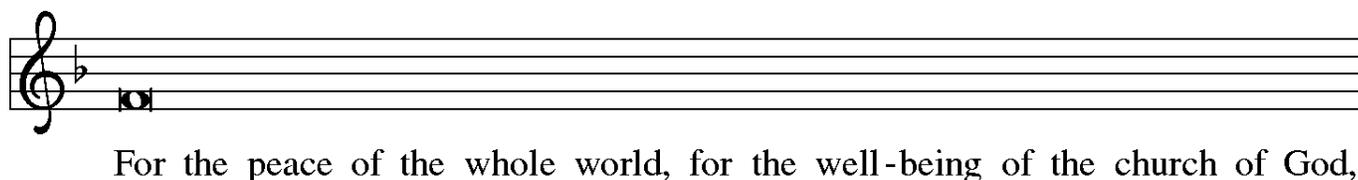
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



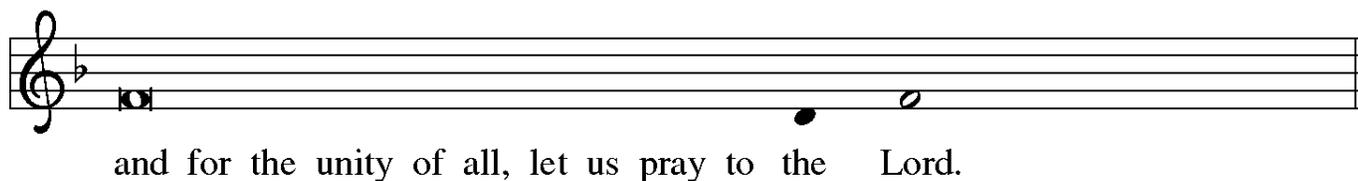
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



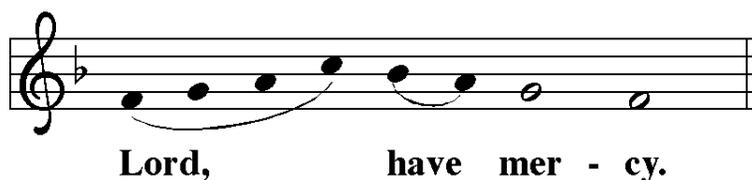
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



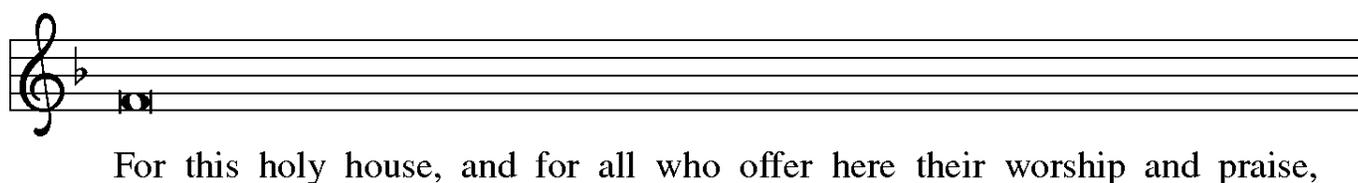
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



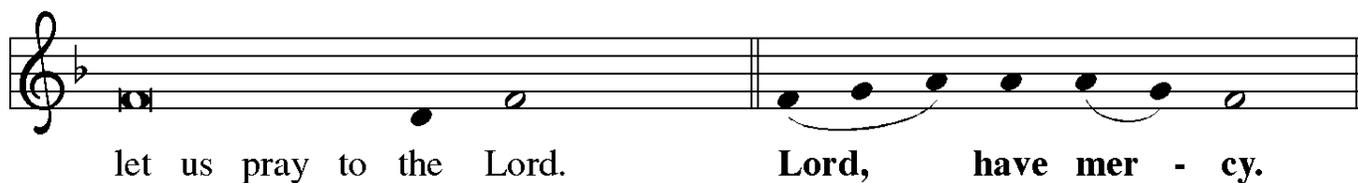
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

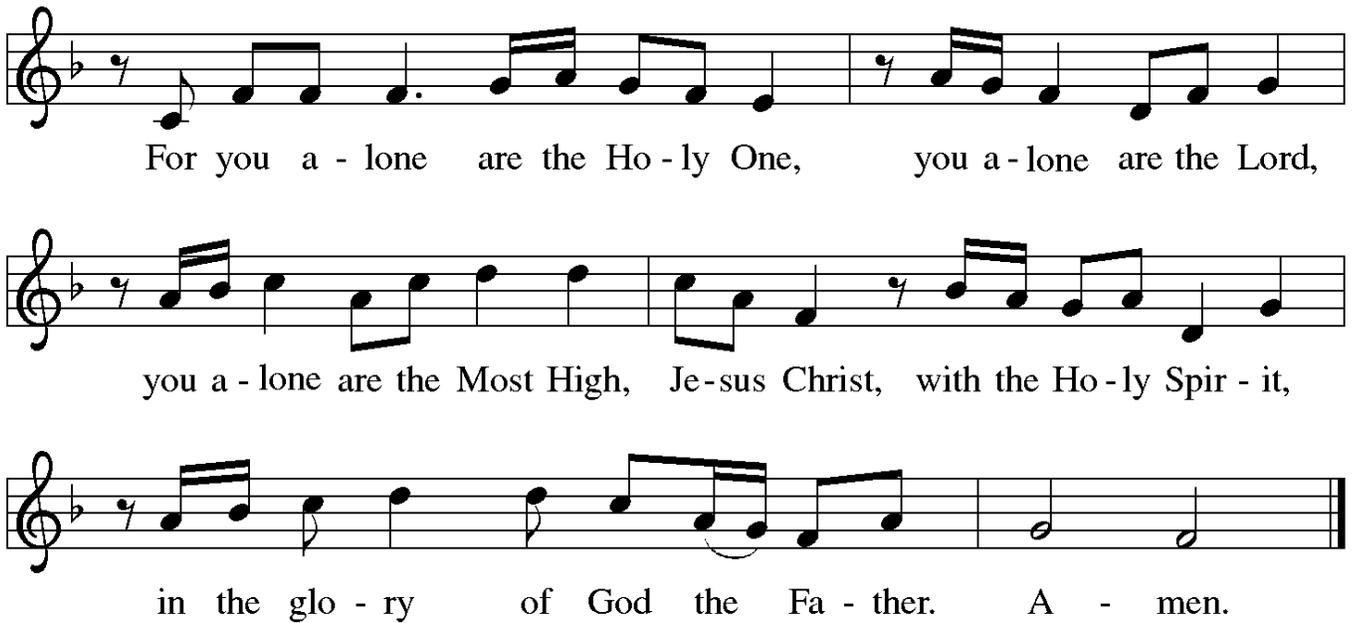


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**





For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### – WORD –

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. <sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**L:** Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;  
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they | were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law which shall not | pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, | snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts | and all cattle,  
creeping things and | flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people  
and praise for all | faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

## SECOND LESSON

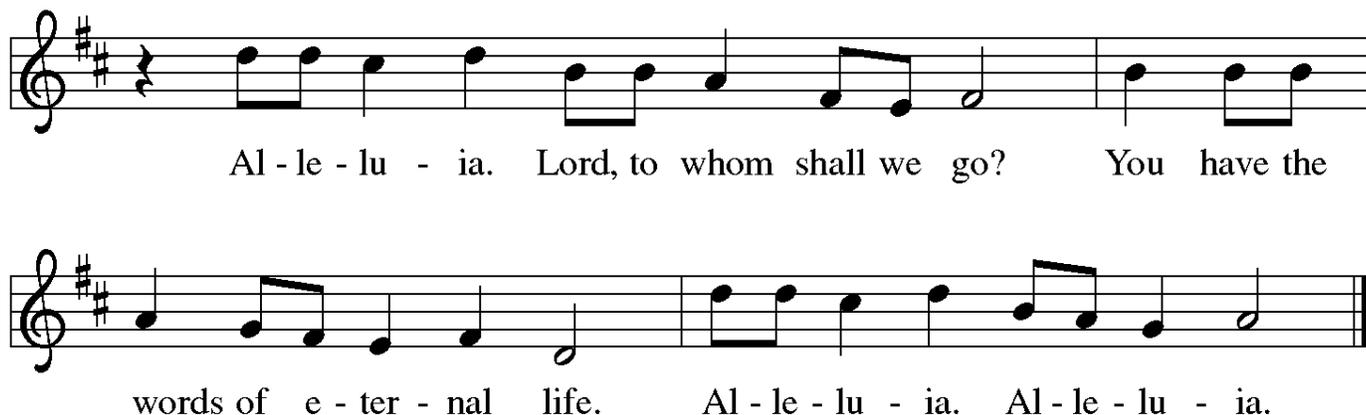
Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40 NRSV, emended

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When it came time for the purification of Mary (and Jesus' circumcision) according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"). Then they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the Law of the Lord—"a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon. He was righteous and devout, looked forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus— to do for him what was customary under the Law, Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying: "Master, now you are dismissing

your servant in peace, according to your word; For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother, Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed— and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

Also there was a prophet named Hannah, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of great age— having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

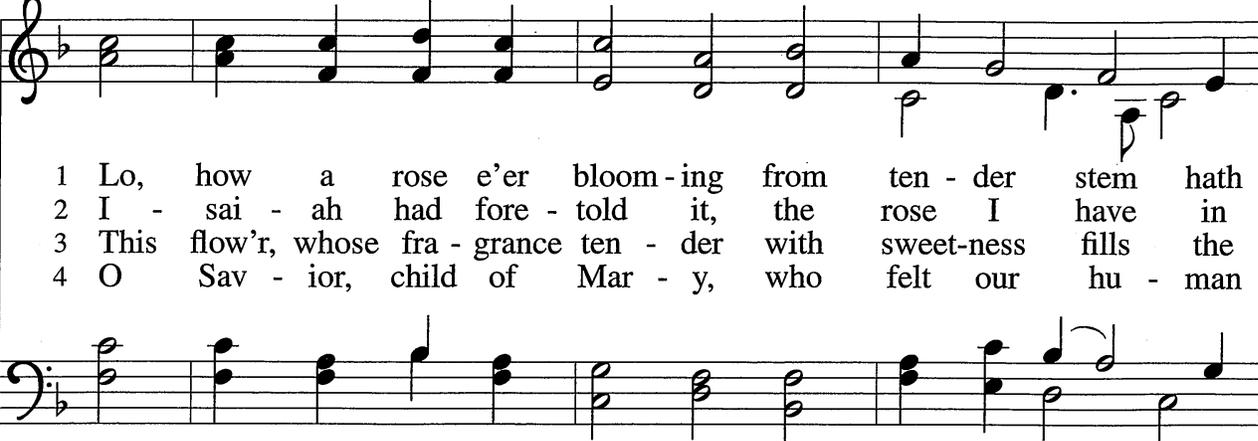
When Mary and Joseph had finished everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**P: The Gospel of our Lord!**

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

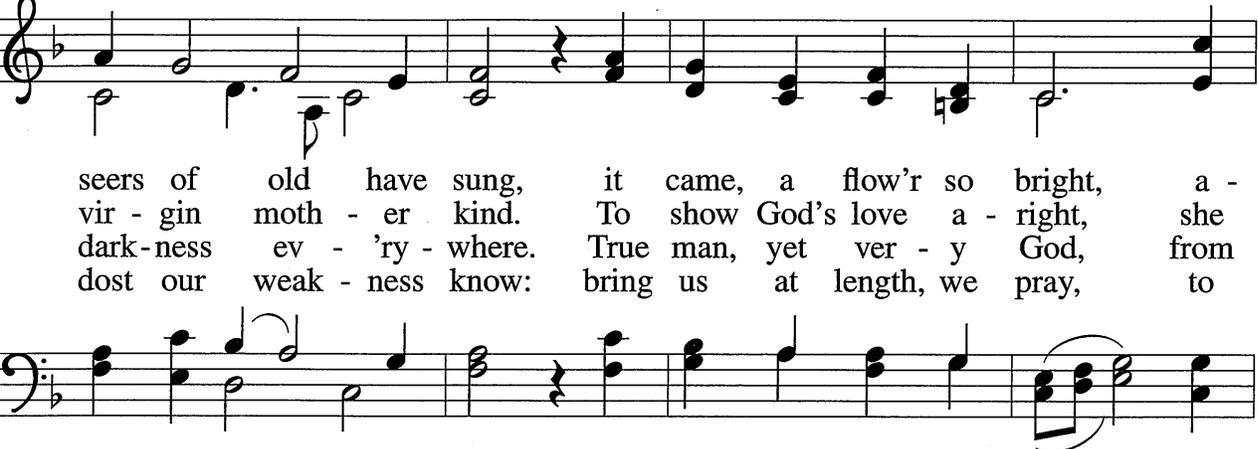
Pr. Adrienne Meier



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.

## APOSTLES' CREED

A: 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: The nations are held up by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness, especially, Anne, Bruce, Carole, Tim, Roger, Paula, Erica, Bev, Liz, Audrey, JoAnne, Deborah, and Casey-Marie. Reveal your power to heal and save. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

#### SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

#### OFFERING

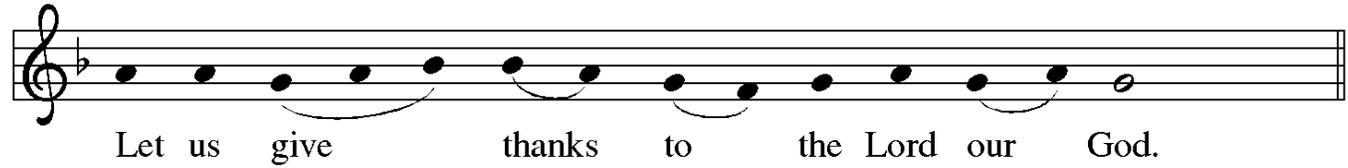
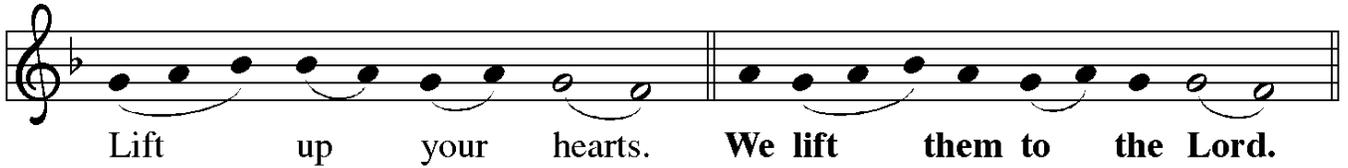
[Click here](#) to visit the St. Thomas website and click the green Donate to St. Thomas button to provide your offering digitally. Offerings may also be mailed to our address found on the last page of this bulletin.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

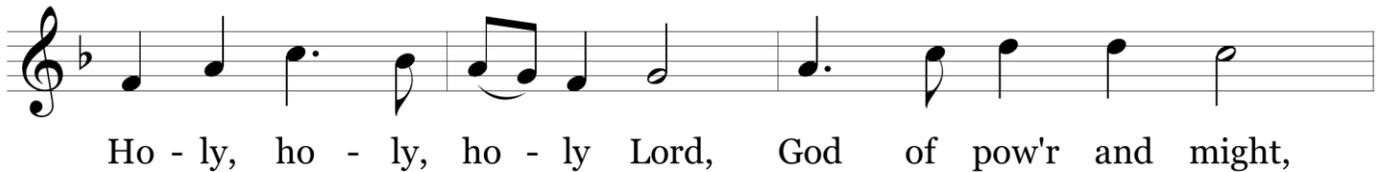
A: Let us pray. Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C: Amen.**

— MEAL —

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

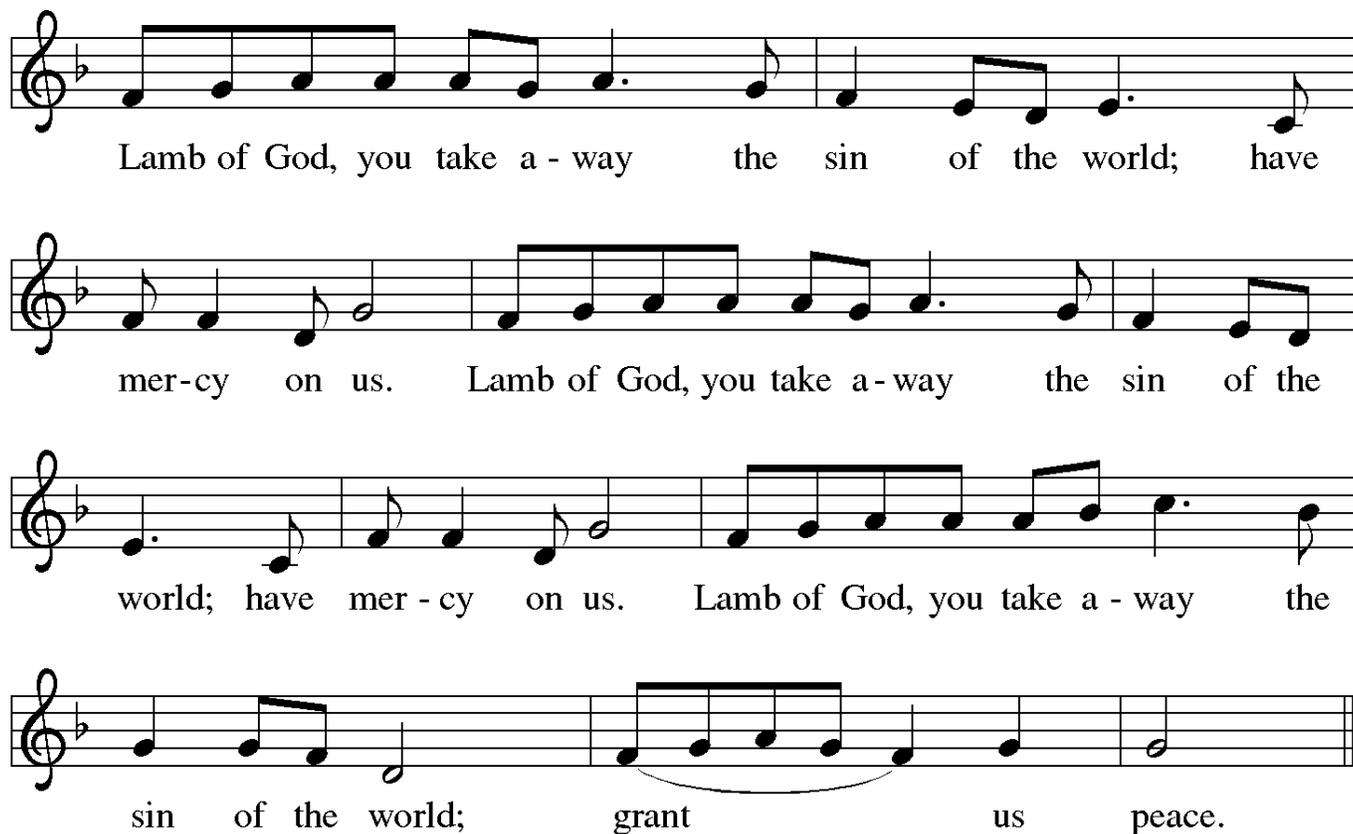
### LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P: The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.  
Come meet Christ in this meal.**

### AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**\*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING**

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

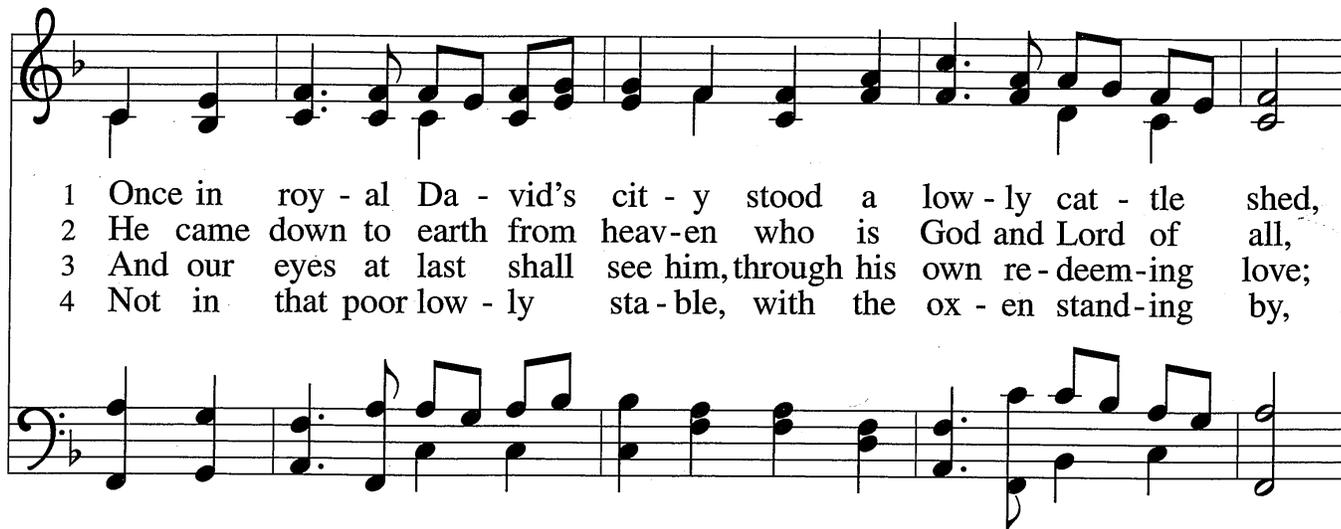
**C: Amen.**

## – SENDING –

## BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.

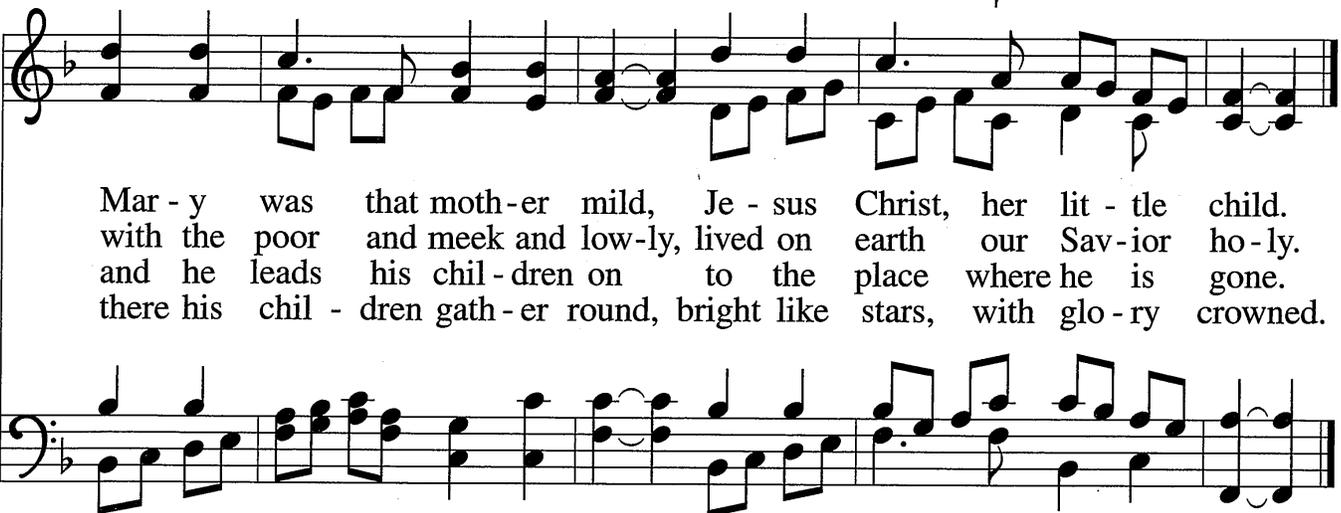
**C: Amen.**



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.

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

+++

**MINISTERS SERVING TODAY:** Kari Esarey; Dan Rademacher; Kathleen Boggess; Pauline Caldwell

**ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Mike Powell, Director of Music and Organist

Katie Gardiner, Adult Choir Director

Melissa de Graaf, Children's Choir Director

in covenant with

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**We are a Christ-centered community that lives, shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**