



Carols & Candlelight

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022
8 p.m.

We hope you feel welcome here.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice, racial equity, and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

We hope you can participate fully in worship.

Everything needed to participate in today's worship is found in this bulletin. The hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) located under the seat in front of you. Worshipers are invited to stand as you are able at the places marked * and to respond when indicated with bold type. We gently remind you to silence all electronic devices.

Our youngest worshipers and their parents may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the sanctuary or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags are available in the narthex and children's bulletins are available from an usher.

Assisted hearing devices and complete-service, large-print bulletins are available from an usher. The blue chairs with arms are reserved for people with mobility limitations. Ushers can remove chairs to place a wheelchair.

We hope you know Holy Communion is for you. At communion, everyone is welcome. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

We hope you know our welcome extends beyond our building.

Today's 8:30 a.m. service is livestreamed. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

We hope you know we pray for you.

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors; prayer requests made before the service begins will be included in the Prayers of the People.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

*ENTRANCE HYMN

O Come All Ye

Faithful

ELW#283

The congregation turns to follow the cross as it passes.

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!

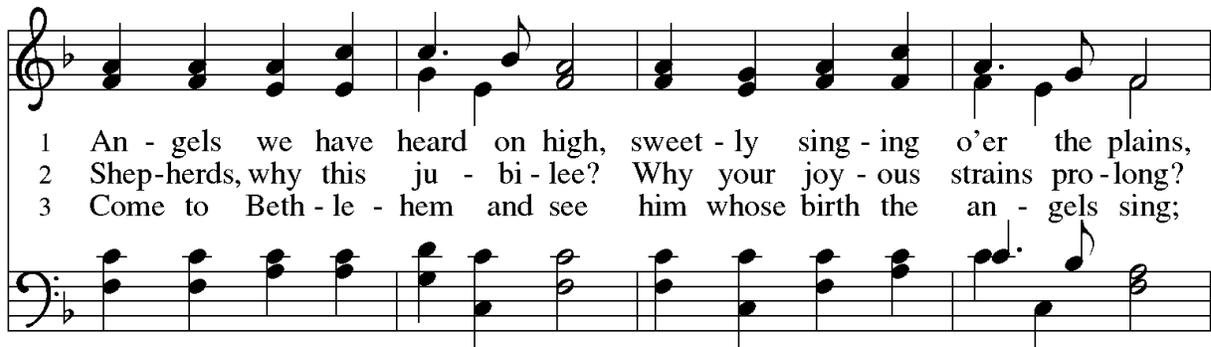
*GREETING

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

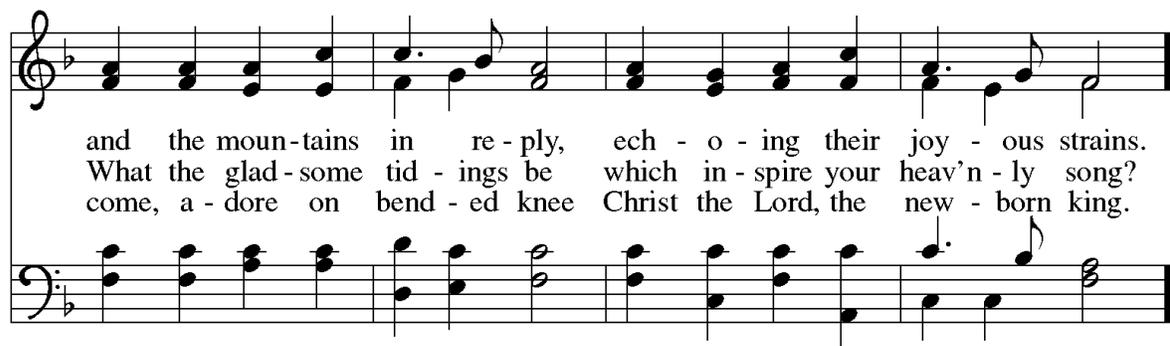
*HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW#289



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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.
C:Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Lecia Beck

FIRST READING

Isaiah 26:16-19

O LORD, in distress they sought you;
they poured out a prayer
when your chastening was on them.
Like a woman with child
about to give birth
writhes and cries out in her pain,
so were we because of you, O LORD;
we were with child; we writhed,
but we gave birth only to wind.
We have won no victories on earth,
and no one is born to inhabit the world.

Your dead shall live; their corpses shall rise.

Those who dwell in the dust will awake and shout for joy!

For your dew is a radiant dew,

and the earth will give birth to those long dead.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord

forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW#270

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.



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

*HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20 NRSV, emended

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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 God favors!"

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW#290

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

***NICENE CREED**

A: Together, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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;
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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.
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified,
who 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 THE CHURCH

A: 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.

A brief silence.

A: O Wisdom, we do not understand choir of angels who proclaim good news to shepherds any more than we understand God come among us as a baby. Grant us enough understand that we might nurture one another and the world with justice and joy. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: O Lord of all, rescue creation from ignorant and willful destruction. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: O Branch of Jesse, root deeply in this world and raise up among the nations a spirit of courage and strength, wisdom and insight, justice and equality. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where

there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

A: O Key of David, open the door to hope for the most vulnerable, who your heart cherishes, Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain especially Elif, Jan, Caretta, Roger, Paula, Audrey, Deborah, Casey-Marie, Mike, Bob, Andrew, Doug, Yvonne, Jan, Jeff, Evelyn, Margrethe, Jerry, Jack, Helen. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

A: O Morning Star, come alongside our darkest nights with wonder and be the center of our brightest days. Grant your people visions of harmony and mutuality so that any who are outside, who have experienced rejection, who are alien may join in the fullness of life together. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

A: O Ruler of the Nations, defend the cause of the poor and plead the case of the imprisoned. For we who are weary, grant us the promise of a new year filled with your favor, and fashion us into a new kin-dom in you. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

A: O Emmanuel, you are with those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

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

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.

OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community** pads. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service. These pads and pencils are sanitized at the end of each service.*

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate by the door or you can also give on our website (stlconline.org). St. Thomas collects gifts to support our mission of sharing, living, and celebrating God's grace with all people. We support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Sussex Carol

Philip M. Young

*OFFERTORY HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

ELW#269



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

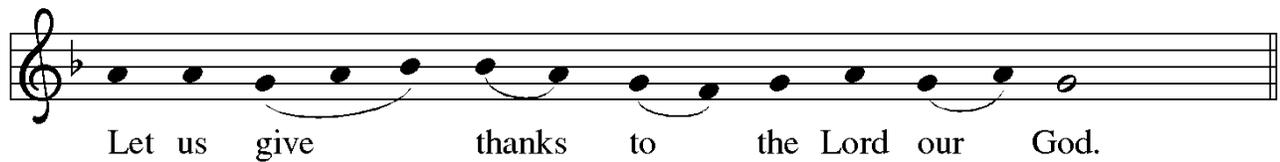
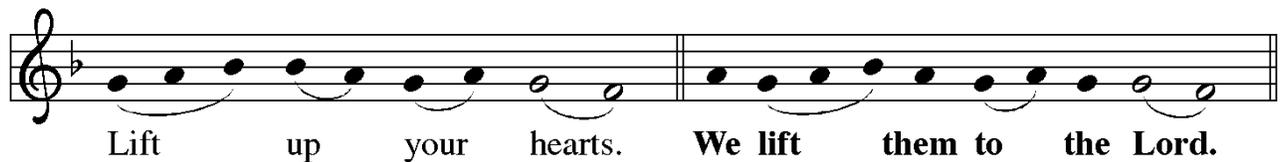
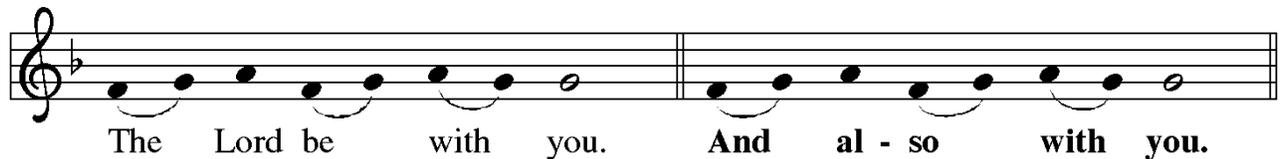
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: 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 the earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is the one who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The thanksgiving includes these responses:

P: ... let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: ... we look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: ... bring the gift of peace on Earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: ... one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete. German is provided on the next page.

**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.**

Vater Unser, der Du bist im Himmel.
Geheiligt werde Dein Name.
Dein Reich komme,
Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel, also auch auf
Erden.
Unser täglich Brot gib uns heute
und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
wie wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.
Führe uns nicht in Versuchung
sondern erlöse uns vom Bösen,
denn Dein ist das Reich und die
Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.
Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

*We believe that God is our host and that all people are
welcome to this feast of grace, community, and
forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of the
ushers. Hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers are
offered with pink wine or red grape juice in individual
cups. If you wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms
over your chest.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW#279

Away in a Manger

ELW#277

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

ELW#282

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW#279

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;

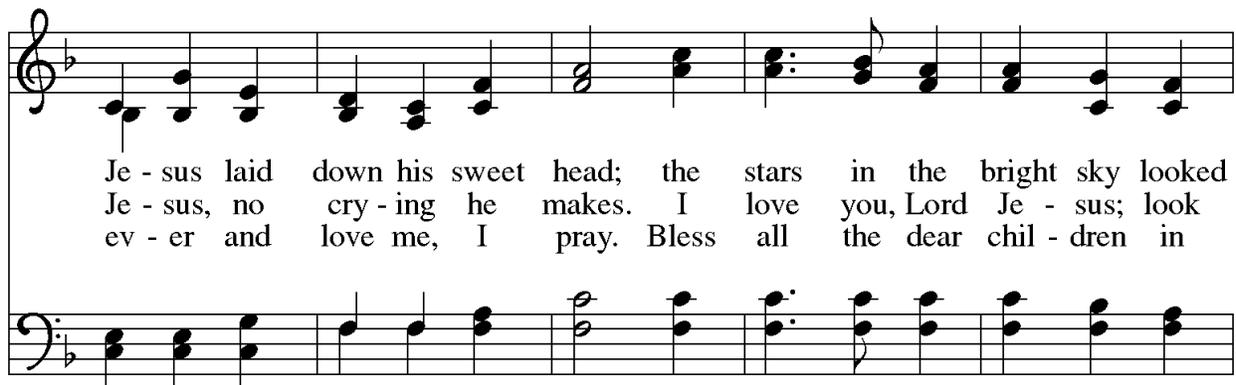
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Away in a Manger

ELW#277



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

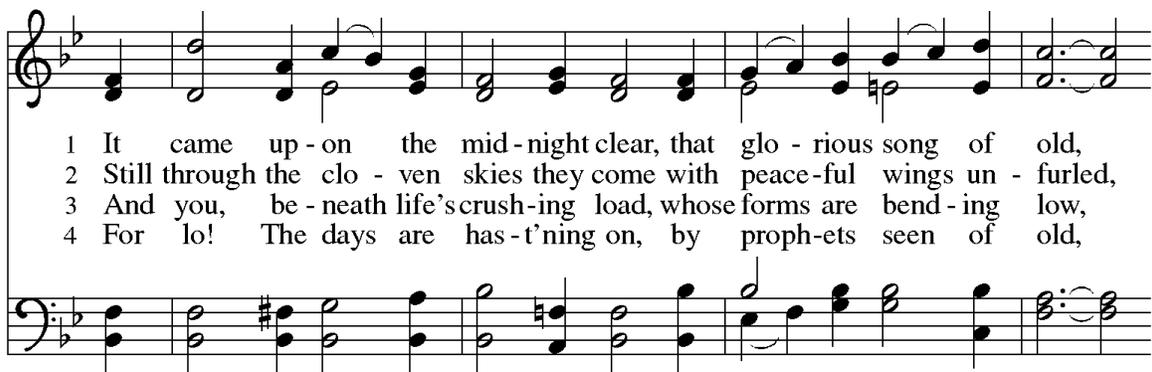


down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

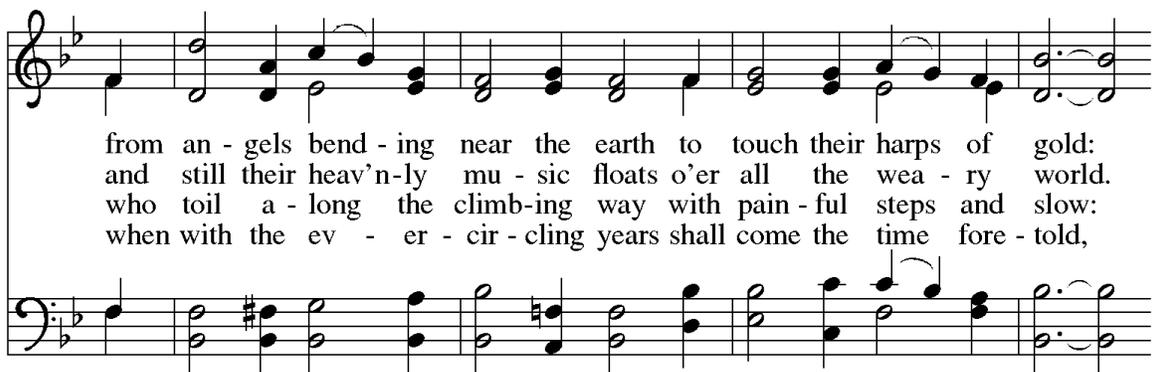
Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

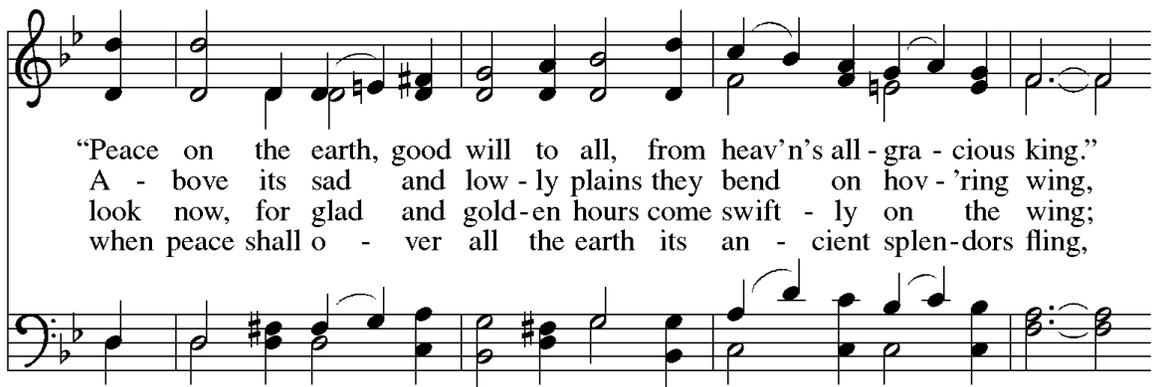
ELW#282



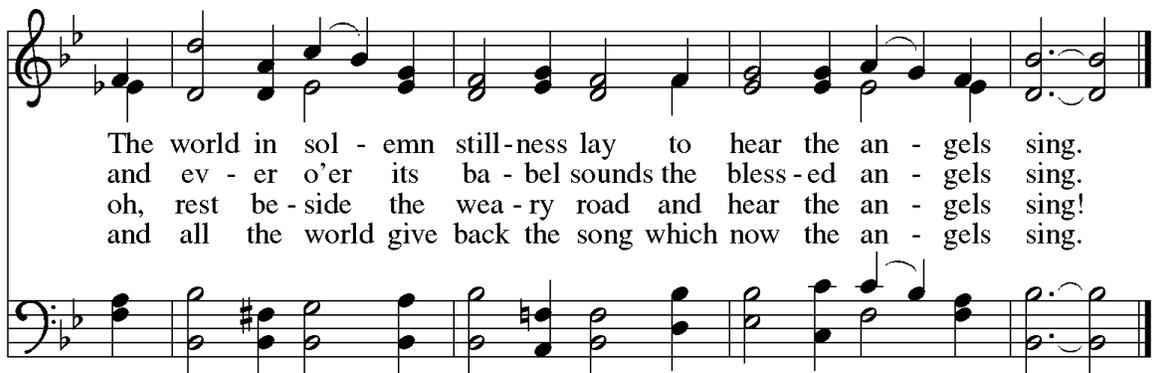
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



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.

***EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen you salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

***THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT**

The Christ Candle, at the center of Advent Wreath, is lit.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

P: Let your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine your church.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom. Enter our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*A lighted candle symbolizes the presence of Christ.
Please do not tip a lit candle.*

*SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Silent Night

ELW#281

Sing verse 1 first in German, then all verses in English.

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.

***BENEDICTION**

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

C:Amen.

*You may extinguish your candles.
(Hold upright until the wax is set.)*

***SENDING HYMN**

The First Noel

ELW#300

The congregation turns to follow the cross as it passes.

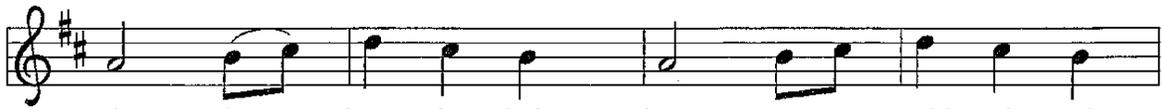
The congregation turns to follow the cross as it passes.



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

***DISMISSAL**

A: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*We depart in peace to continue our worship
in lives of witness to Christ's love
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

The Liturgy is reprinted from
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, setting 3.
copyright © 2006 by permission of
Augsburg Fortress, license #SBT005707.
Hymns reprinted by permission listed
within and under OneLicense #A-724450.

Plummer, Lauren. Advent Candle, from
Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library,
Nashville, TN.

[https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-
imagelink.pl?RC=57464](https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57464)

[retrieved December 20, 2022]. Original source: Lauren Plummer, [https://www.linkedin.com/in/lauren-plummer-
mts-ma-006738129/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lauren-plummer-mts-ma-006738129/).

From Pastor Adrienne, Pastor Lecia, and the church staff:

We are deeply grateful for your seasonal expressions of caring and appreciation for our work among you. We pray that each of you will be richly blessed throughout Christmastide and in the New Year!

Christmas Day

On **Sunday, December 25 at 9:30 a.m.**, bring the whole family for Stories, Songs, and PJs. Bring Christmas cookies to share and enjoy stories for children of God of all ages, timeless carols, and joyous fellowship.

New Years Day

On **Sunday, January 1 at 9:30 a.m.**, begin the new year with hope and joy. Celebrate that God is with us (and often with us in one another) today and throughout the year to come with fellowship and a potluck brunch. Additionally, please note the "greens" will be taken down following the service, perhaps some during and following brunch. All helping hands are welcomed.

Epiphany Retreat

As a new year dawns, join us for a half-day retreat to begin with presence and intention in your relationships. Our retreat, **Friendship in the Spirit: Rituals and Relationships for Pandemic/Post-Pandemic Loneliness**, will explore patterns of relationship and aloneness in our lives, help us explore and name places in our lives now that are particularly lonely, and offer quiet exploration of the kinds of mutual, vulnerable relationships God created us for. Adults and teens can invite a friend or enjoy the morning alone. We will gather in **Heritage Hall on Saturday, January 7, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**; a light breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. Please sign up on the clipboard at the Welcome Desk.

CHRISTMAS 2022

by Jerry Smith

In the spirit of Christmas, living fully will bring joy to you and others.

You start living fully

when you laugh at yourself over silly things,
if you see a potential friend in every stranger,
if you awake to your creative powers,
when you make your own decisions
and learn to live with them.

You start living fully

if you allow your spouse, the needed space,
when any gateway you choose – reading, travel,
carpentry, cooking – opens to a new world,
if, after hardships, you still have dreams,
if you love yourself as much as your pet,
when doing nothing feels good,

If you forgive yourself of wrongs, doubts, and failures.

You start living fully

when the people you love, know it,

when you take a new road to see where it goes,
if you give yourself time to think,
if physical weakness gives you a stronger spirit,

when laughing and crying are equally okay,
if you live your faith as best you can.

You start living fully

Worship Leaders

Altar Care: Shirley Mingee, Mary Sasse

Bread & Wine: Kaye Hill

Assisting Minister: Vicar Amy Bartleson Balcam

Lectors: David & Karen Rohlfing

Crucifer: Kaye Hill

Acolyte: Arno Risner

Ushers: Dean Arnold, Susan Hiller

Greeters: Tim & Jennifer Garl

Council Coordinator: Kaye Hill



The Poinsettias are given by
Dean & Sandy Arnold, Lyman & Gloria Hitchcock,
Gene & Gayl Laughman, Carol Seaman,
Gail Seegert, Kris Stewart, Lindsey Smith,
Tom Strentz, and Jim & Allison Ward.

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3800 East Third Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47401
Office Hours 9a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Phone: (812) 332-5252
stlconline.org

Partners in ministry with
**Lutheran Church of
the Living Waters**
Cherokee, North Carolina

Linked with
Sister Parish
Iglesia Santo Domingo
de Guzman, Chichipate
Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,
Izabal, Guatemala

In covenant with
**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY**
Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian
Campus Pastor
lutheran@indiana.edu
Phone: (812) 333-2474
lcmiu.org

Rev. Adrienne Meier
Senior Pastor
pastor@stlconline.org

Rev. Lecia Beck
Pastor of Youth and Christian Nurture
christiannurture@stlconline.org

Vicar Amy Bartleson Balcam
Pastoral Intern
intern@stlconline.org

Erica Whichello
Parish Administrator
parishadmin@stlconline.org

Matthew Benkert
Director of Music and Organist
directorofmusic@stlconline.org

Kathryn Davidson
Adult Choir Director
choir@stlconline.org

Melissa de Graaf
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

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