



**Nativity of Our Lord**  
**Friday, December 24, 2021**  
**Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA**

# + GATHERING +

## PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

### GATHERING HYMN

### *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW #283



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!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

P. Waiting, watching, hoping against hope, the faithful have looked and longed for a Savior.

### C. We wait for the light that will break the darkness.

P. Wrapped up in our own lives, in our own struggles, consumed with our own desires and our own sins, still our hope was in God.

### C. He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P. At long last, all generations cry out, "For unto us a child is born."

### C. Glory to God in the Highest!

## 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.

## 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.

## **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.**

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

A reading from Isaiah.

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

<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. <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.

*After the lesson is read:*

L. Word of God, word of life.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**LIVE CONTEMPORARY SONG**

*He Shall Reign Forevermore*

Tomlin | Maher

**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

A reading from Titus.

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

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*After the lesson is read:*

L. Word of God, word of life.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**     *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (v. 2 & 3)*     ELW #288



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice     with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice     with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice     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 the 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!

## **GOSPEL LESSON (Luke 2:1-20)**

P. The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd Chapter.

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

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

<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. <sup>5</sup>He 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. <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." <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. <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.

*After the Gospel reading:*

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

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



## REFLECTION: FOR THOSE AT HOME



*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered...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...he went to be registered with his wife...while they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. (Excerpts from Luke 2:1-6)*

Dear Church,

Merry Christmas! As I ponder the Christmas story from the Gospel of St. Luke, I am struck at just how worn out and tired Mary and Joseph must have been. I mean really! Ordered by royal decree to journey a far distance to your hometown to be counted and taxed. All this while Mary was great with child.

Joseph and Mary were at the mercy of a ruler that was not ready to show any mercy! To complicate matters, when Mary and Joseph arrived in his hometown there was no place for them to stay. And yet, God showed up! A child was born. The angels announced *good news of great joy for all the people*. God stepped into that difficult time and was indeed, Emmanuel, God with Us!

I can't help but think that the past two years have felt like an extended trip to Bethlehem. In this time of on-going pandemic, how many of us have longed for the comfort of being with friends and family. How many of us have faced hardship...loss of loved ones...loss of employment...loss of faith even. These two years have not been an easy journey for any of us.

As difficult and challenging as this time has been, there have been those moments along the way that have truly been - *good news of great joy for all the peo-*

ple. In an ongoing pandemic I have witnessed great kindness...people reaching out to folks, a micro-pantry stocked for those in need, food drives, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets filled, blankets and stuffed toys delivered, books collected for the children at Blackhawk Elementary. How and where have you encountered Good News?!

Folks, we are on a journey, and we do not journey without great hope! Emmanuel, God with us, has come among us. May you know the joy of the season. May you be blessed knowing that God is with you. May you know, even in these most unusual of times – EMMANUEL GOD IS WITH US!

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Mary

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ELW #279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
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

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout

the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

C. **And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.*

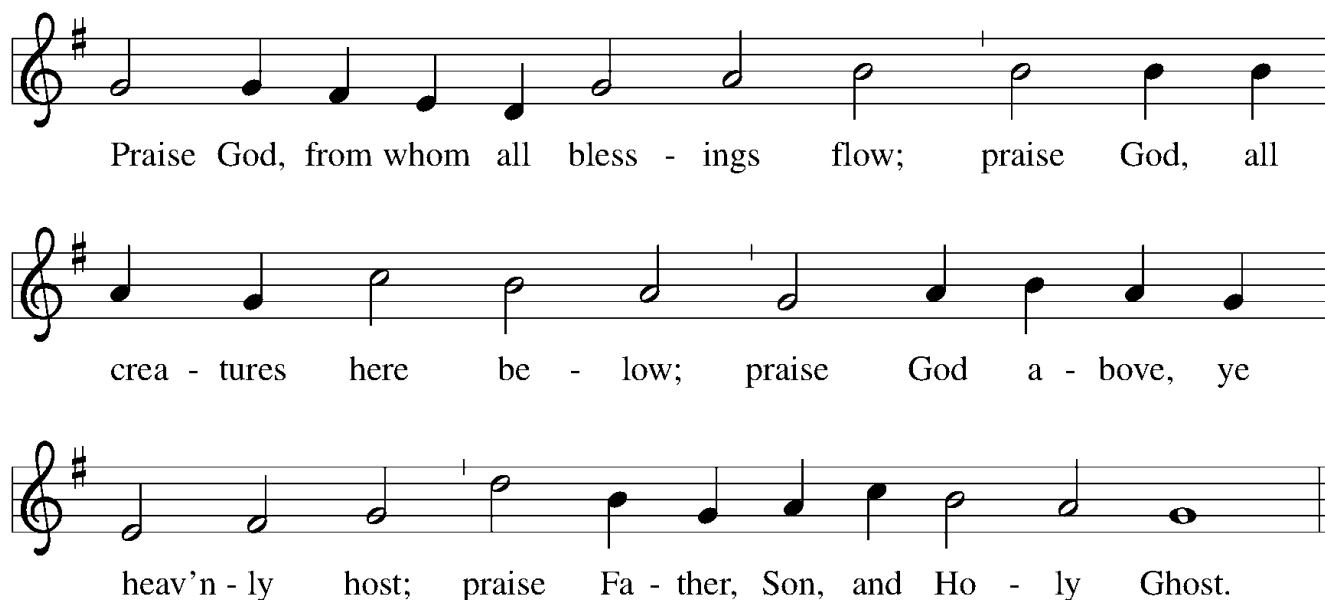
## + THE MEAL +

**OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS** *Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from your bank.*

## OFFERING HYMN

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW #885



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## OFFERING PRAYER

P. Let us pray. Gracious God,

C. **your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

P. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**C. We lift them up to the Lord.**

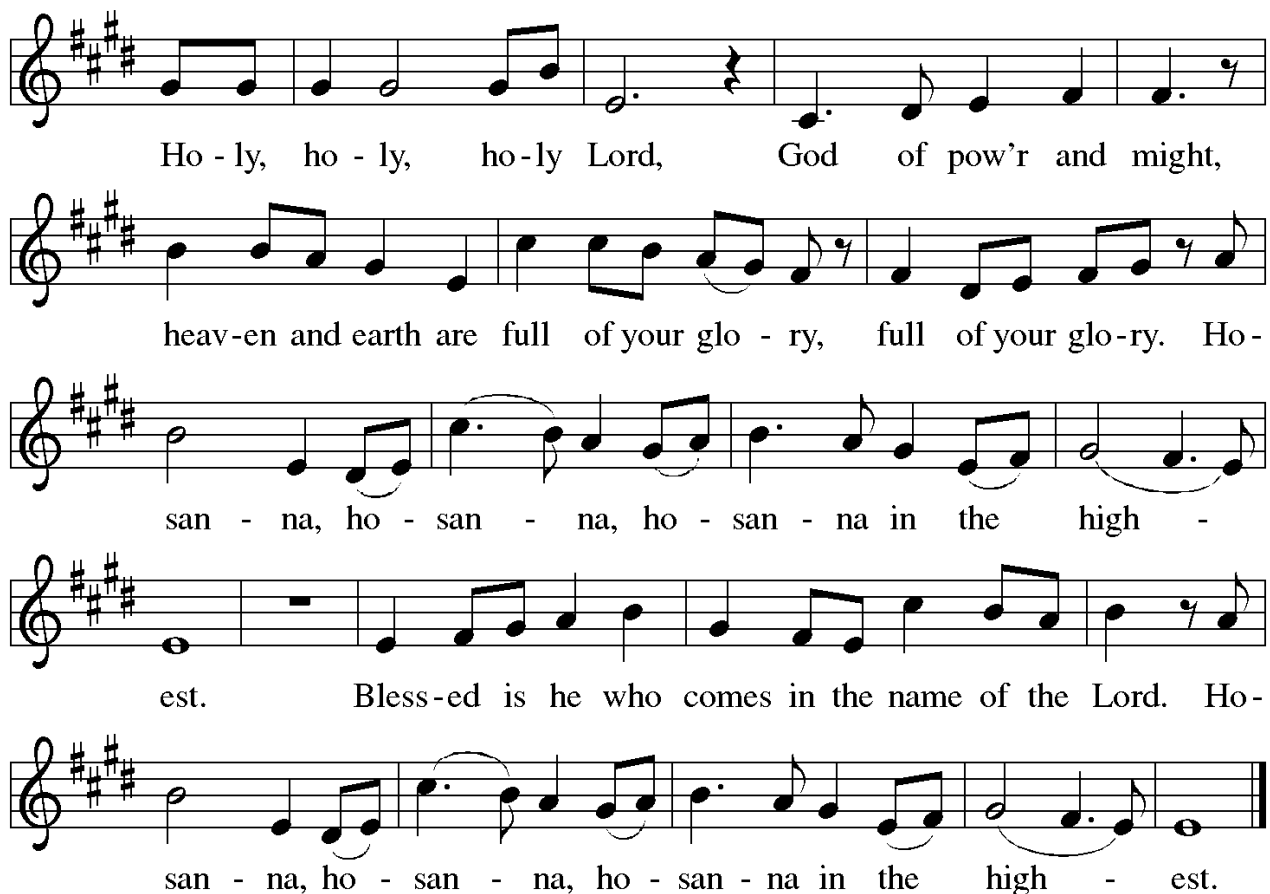
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to give our God thanks and praise.**

P. 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 in their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p.190



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

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

Creator of all and Source of life,  
at the birth of time  
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,  
you sent your Word, born of Mary,  
to shine in our darkness  
and to make us your daughters and sons.

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

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his birth and life among us,  
his death and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,  
that, held and nourished by you,  
we may live as your children,  
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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

P. In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.  
 C. Thanks be to God.

### LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 191

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

SOLO

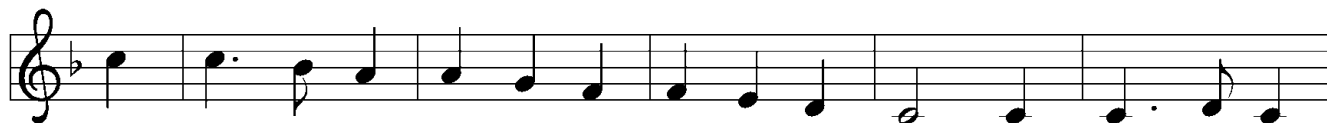
*O Holy Night*

Adam Miller

COMMUNION HYMNS

*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 the 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-gracious 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

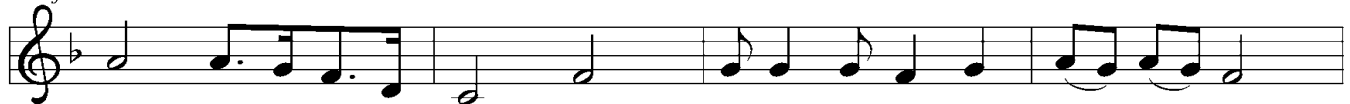
## TABLE BLESSING

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

C. Amen.

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE *Go Tell It on the Mountain (v.1 & 3)* 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.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
 Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Let us pray. We thank you, wonderous God, for Jesus,

C. **God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND READING FROM SCRIPTURE

### HYMN

### *Silent Night*

ELW #281



*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,



*Hold - er 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.

## BLESSING

P. The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C. Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

### *Joy to the World*

ELW #267



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



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

## C. Thanks be to God.

Portions of this liturgy are revised from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com), Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB121760. Scripture excerpts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved

Christmas Altar  
Flowers given by  
the Kocis Family  
in memory of all  
our departed loved  
ones.



.....  
**Merry Christmas  
from the Peace Lutheran Church Staff**

Pastor Mary Zupansic  
Liz Ansell, Office Manager  
Peter Harjes, Custodian  
Jan Ambrose, Music Coordinator  
Brenda Peck, Organist  
Linda Rice, PP Operator  
Janet Kocis, Camera Operator

