

St. John Lutheran Church

On earth
Peace,
good will toward men.

LUKE 2:14



Wednesday, December 24, 2025 ❄️ 7:30 pm & 10:00 pm

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

7:30 PM & 10:00 PM

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness



- P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. Most merciful God,
- C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
- Amen.**
- P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. **Amen.**

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful (#283)

Greeting

- P. The grace of our Infant Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you on this Christmas Eve.
- C. **And also with you.**

Kyrie p. 147

- P. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- P. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. 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.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

- P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
- C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

Special Music

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall he burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise: It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (#282)

Psalm 96

Response: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods. R**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD. R**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth. **R**

Second Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,

¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ It is Jesus Christ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise: Angels We Have Heard on High (#289)

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for

her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children's Sermon

Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (#270)

Nicene Creed

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 Intercession

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares (especially in . . . specific instances of conflict may be named).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling (especially).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Anthem

Great Thanksgiving p. 152

P. The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Preface p. 153

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153

Lord's Prayer

Let us 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns: O Little Town of Bethlehem (#279)
Away in the Manger (#277)

Post-Communion Blessing

Candlelight Liturgy

- P. Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world
C **By day and by night he shines for all to see.**
P. Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
C **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**
P. God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
C **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**
P. Jesus, is the light of the world.
C **Jesus is the light of our lives.**
P. Sing to God a new song!
C **A song of hope, joy and peace around the world.**

Benediction

Sending Hymn: Silent Night (#281)

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!

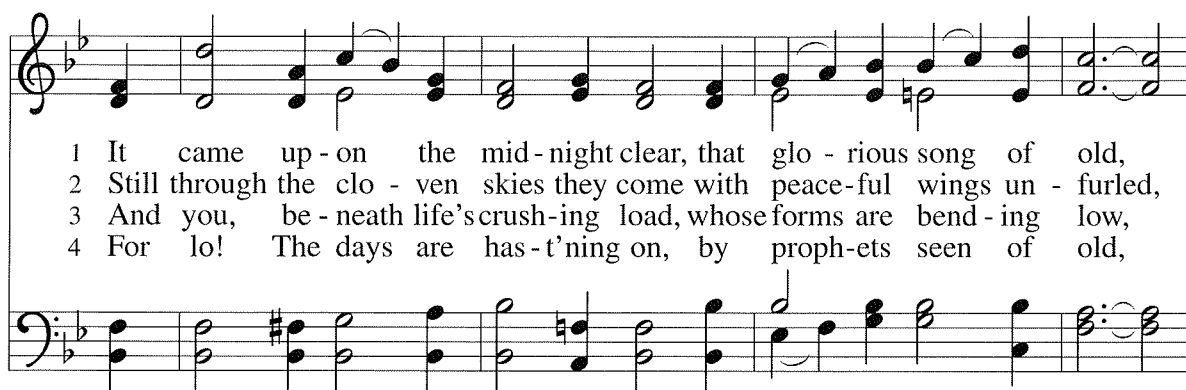
come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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,

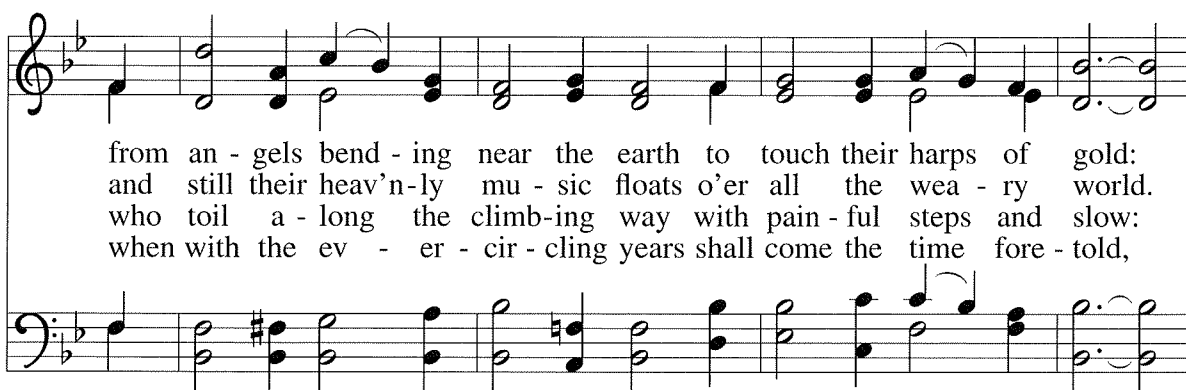
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

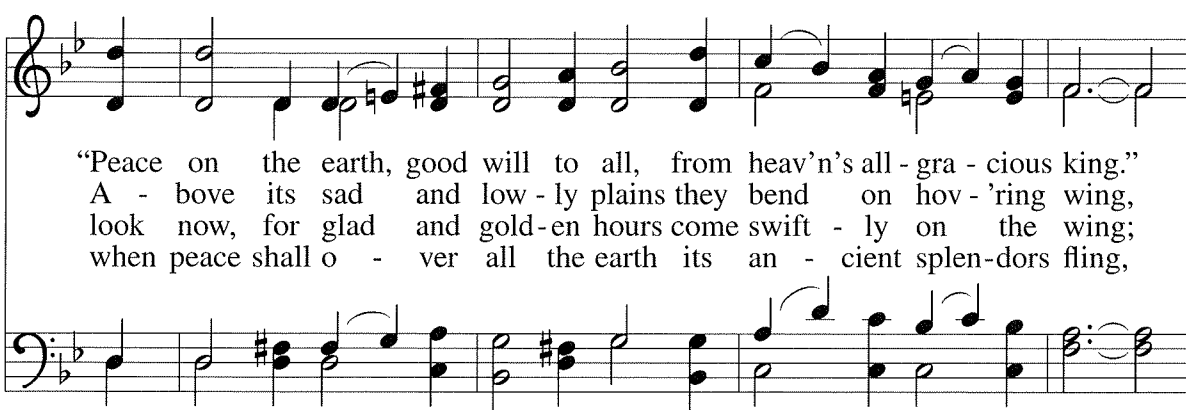
282



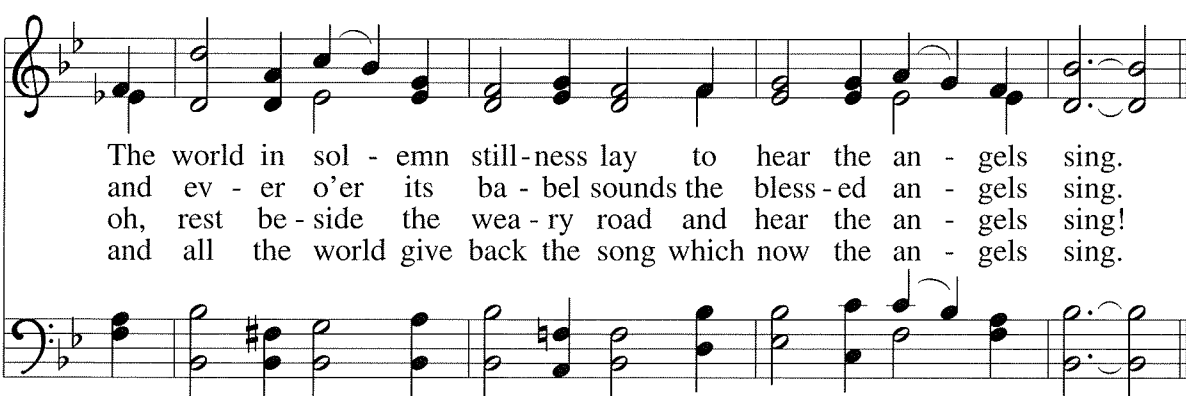
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



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,

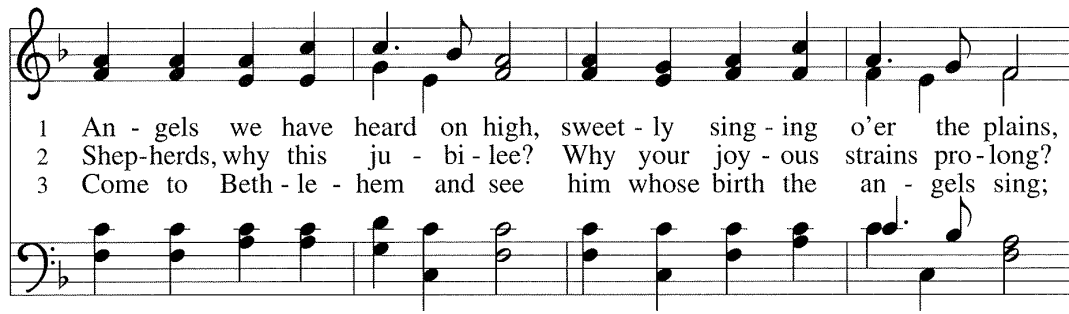


"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

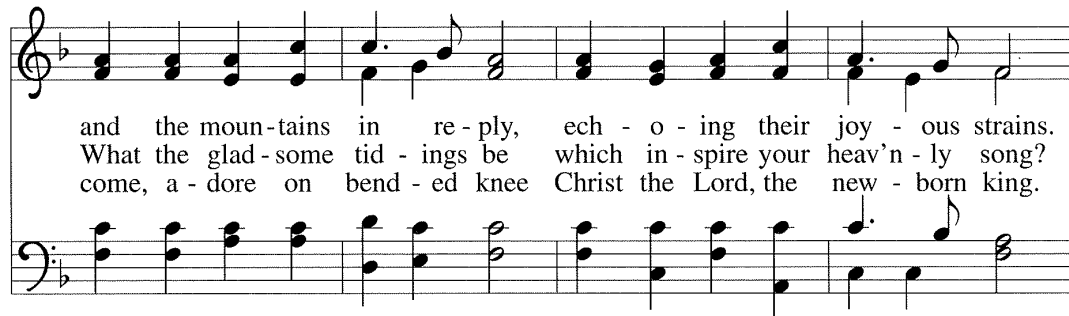


The world in sol-lemn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road and hear the an-gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Angels We Have Heard on High



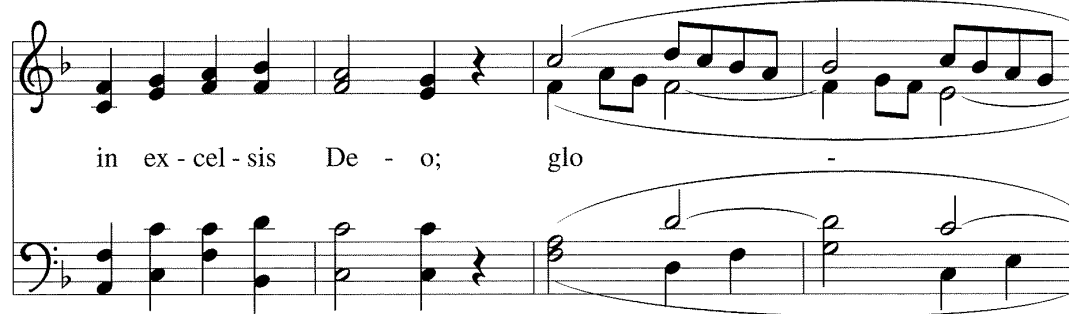
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
 Glo - ri - a

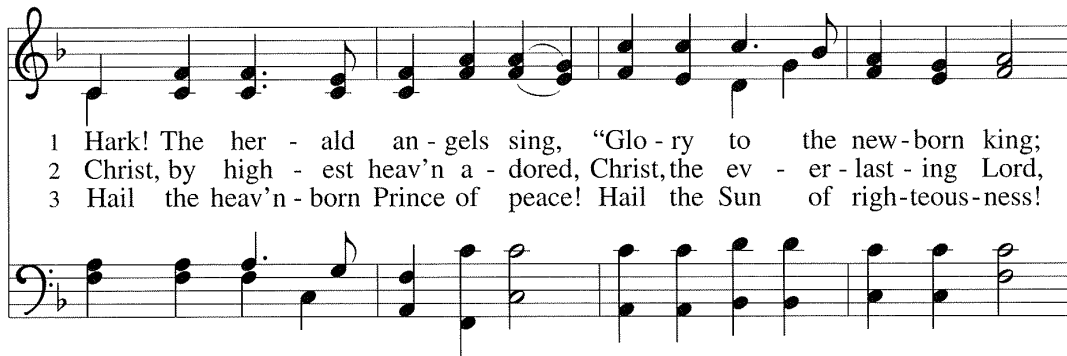


in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

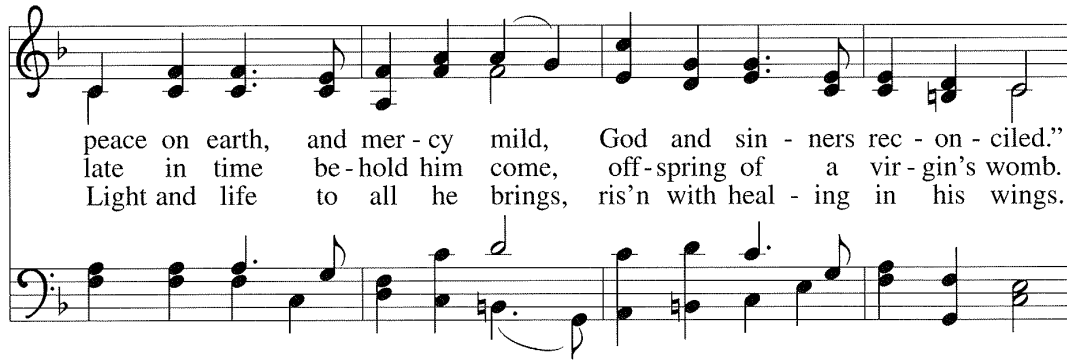


in ex - cel - sis De - o.

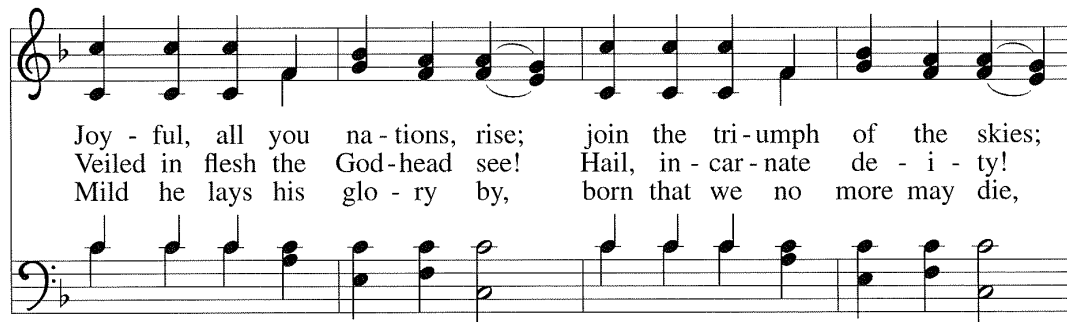
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



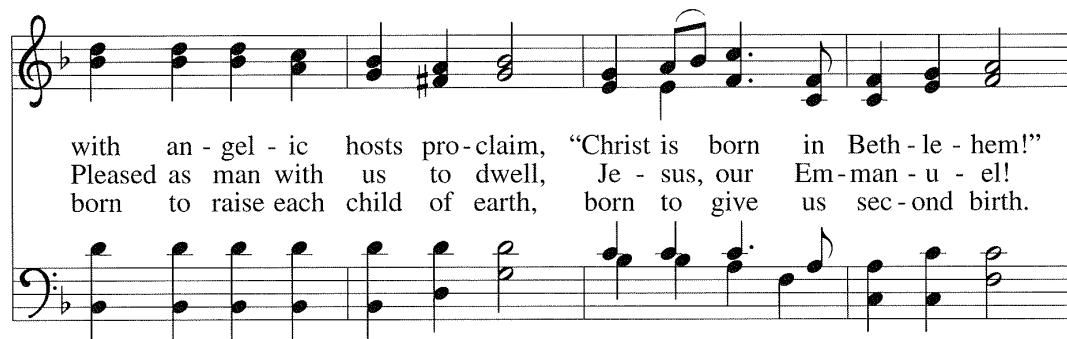
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time, be-hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

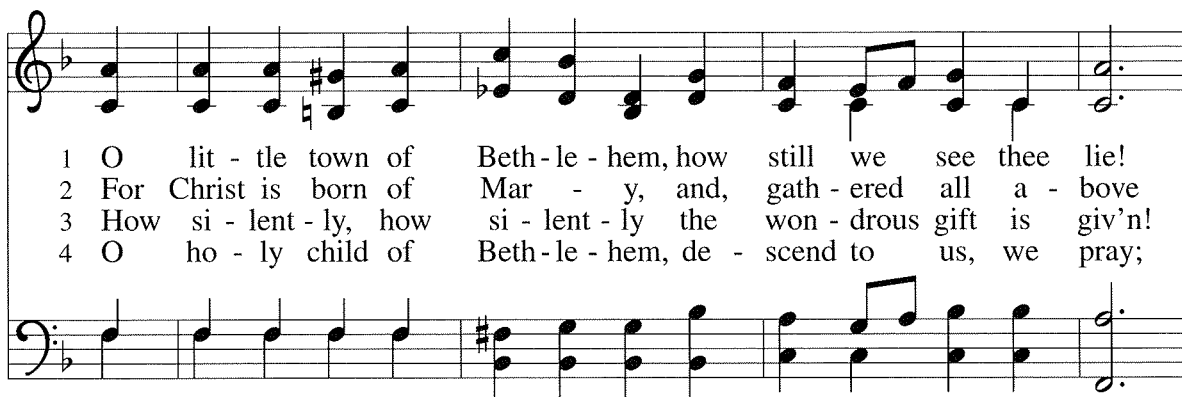


with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

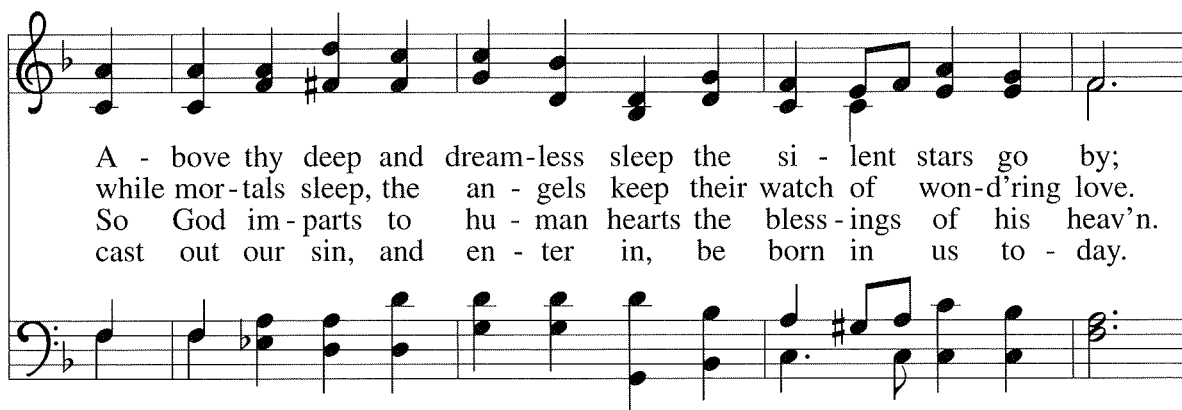
Refrain



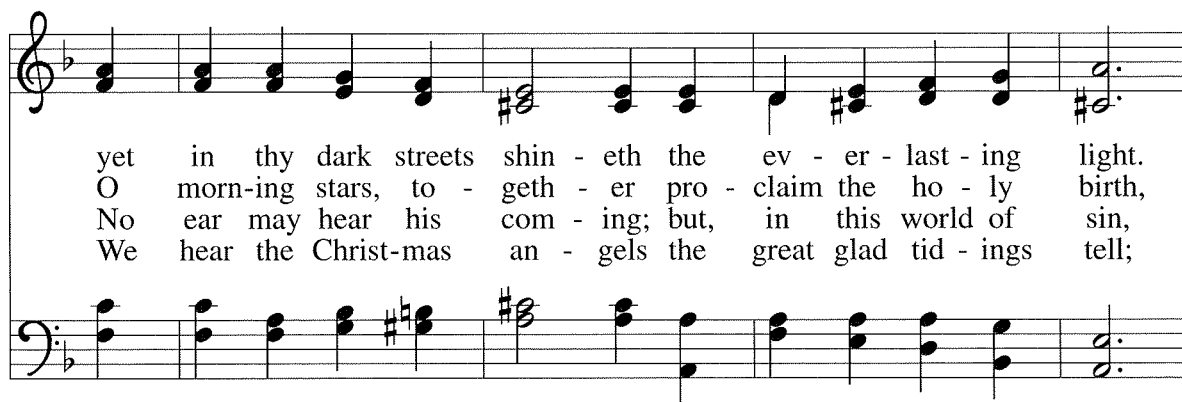
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"



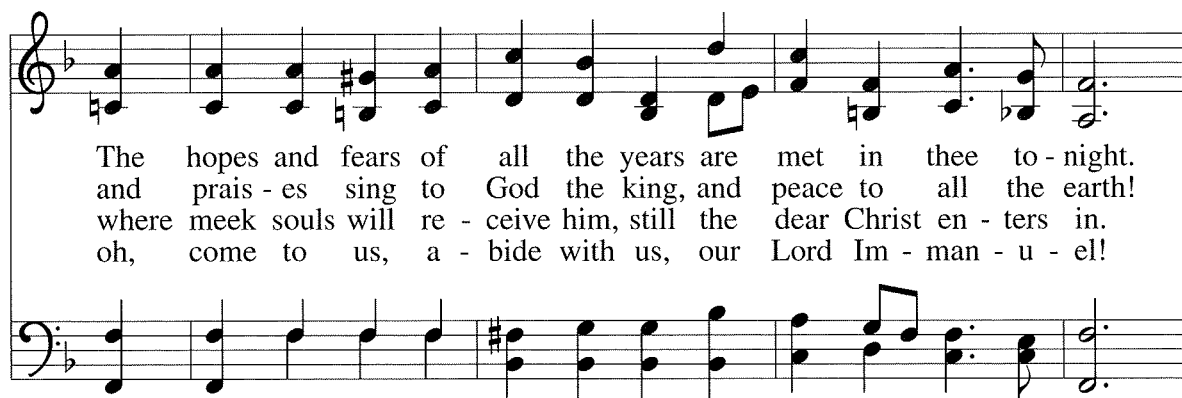
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



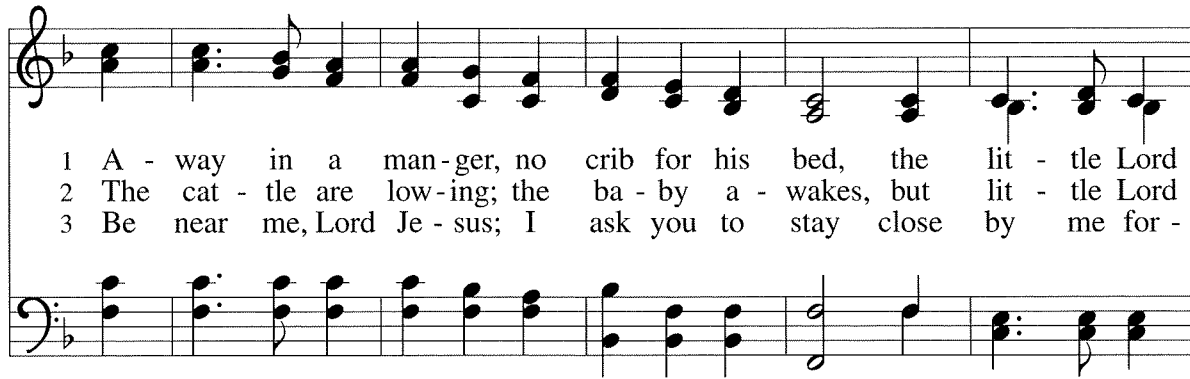
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



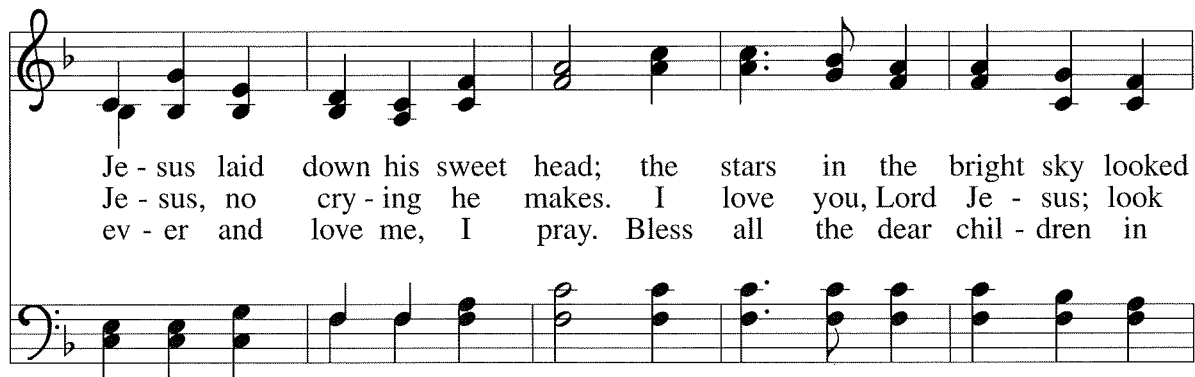
yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



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!



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.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

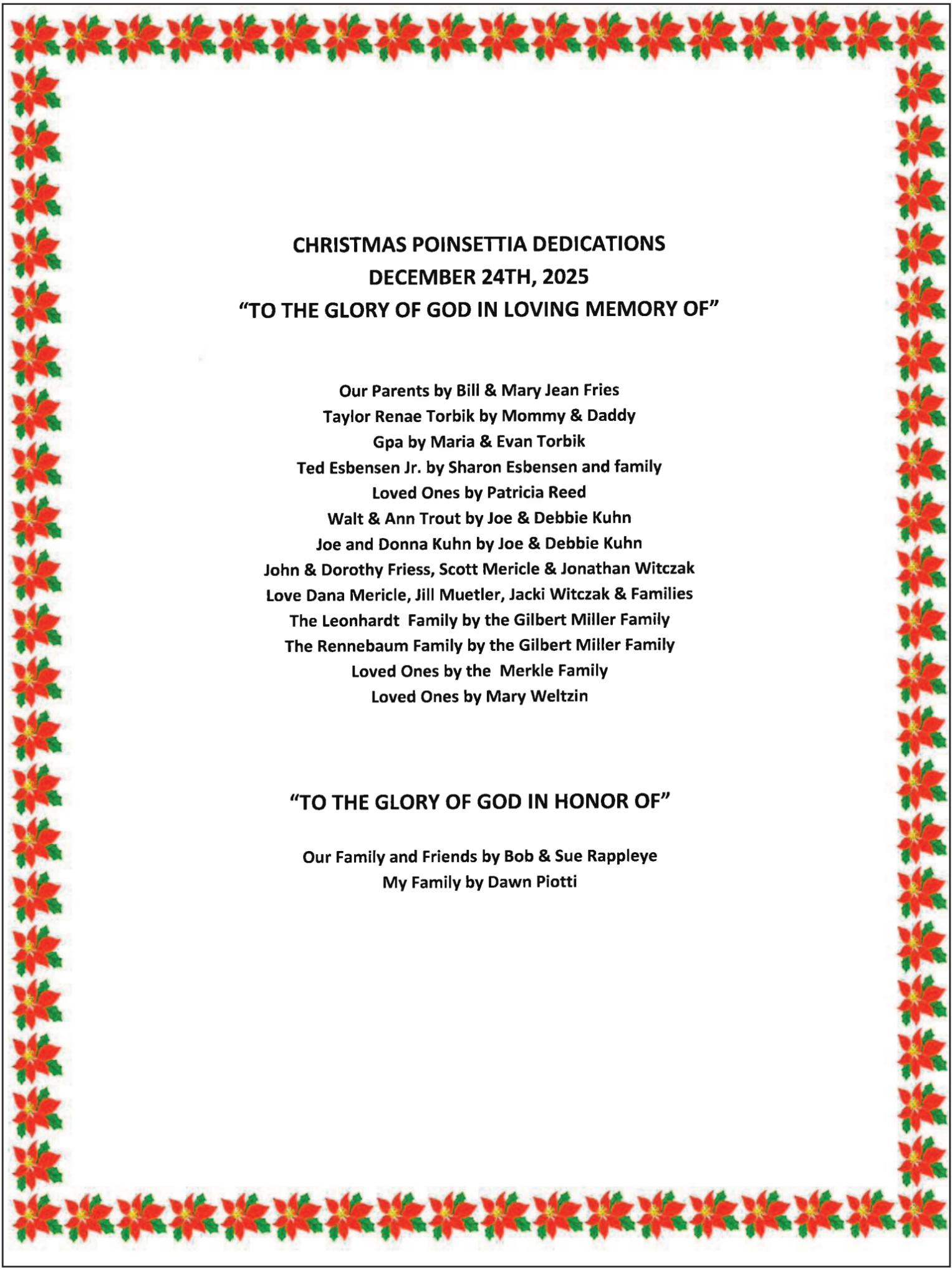
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS
DECEMBER 24TH, 2025
“TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN LOVING MEMORY OF”

Our Parents by Bill & Mary Jean Fries
Taylor Renae Torbik by Mommy & Daddy
Gpa by Maria & Evan Torbik
Ted Esbensen Jr. by Sharon Esbensen and family
Loved Ones by Patricia Reed
Walt & Ann Trout by Joe & Debbie Kuhn
Joe and Donna Kuhn by Joe & Debbie Kuhn
John & Dorothy Friess, Scott Mericle & Jonathan Witczak
Love Dana Mericle, Jill Muetler, Jacki Witczak & Families
The Leonhardt Family by the Gilbert Miller Family
The Rennebaum Family by the Gilbert Miller Family
Loved Ones by the Merkle Family
Loved Ones by Mary Weltzin

“TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN HONOR OF”

Our Family and Friends by Bob & Sue Rappleye
My Family by Dawn Piotti

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Marie Lentine Douglas	Ed Kagen	Sue Murphy	Eric Sprengel
Krystal Booras	Tracey Drew	Tracey Kelly	Bill Murray	Bill Steel
Michael Botti	Karen Campbell-Erickson	Carl Knopp	Renate Murray	Bill Todt
Brian Byrnes	Indie Fisher	Eunice Knopp	Erica Polito	George Vaneman, Sr.
Randy Cantoral	Rhea Fryor	Donna Leek	Samantha Reed	George Van Wagner
Janet Cappuccio	Bob Garner	Rebecca Livingston	Kimberly Rickert	Beverly Warming
Sandra DeRitis	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Ashley Rosser	Mary Weltzin
Barbara Doelling	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Dorcas Schellhas	Mary White
Helen Dominic	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Melanie Miles	Finn Schureman	Helen Yezusko
Frank Donovan	Valerie Hoffmann	Kent Montford	Frank Siderio III	Bob Zielsdorf

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.



Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas &
a Healthy and Happy New Year from
the Ministry Team, Church Council, and Staff.