

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

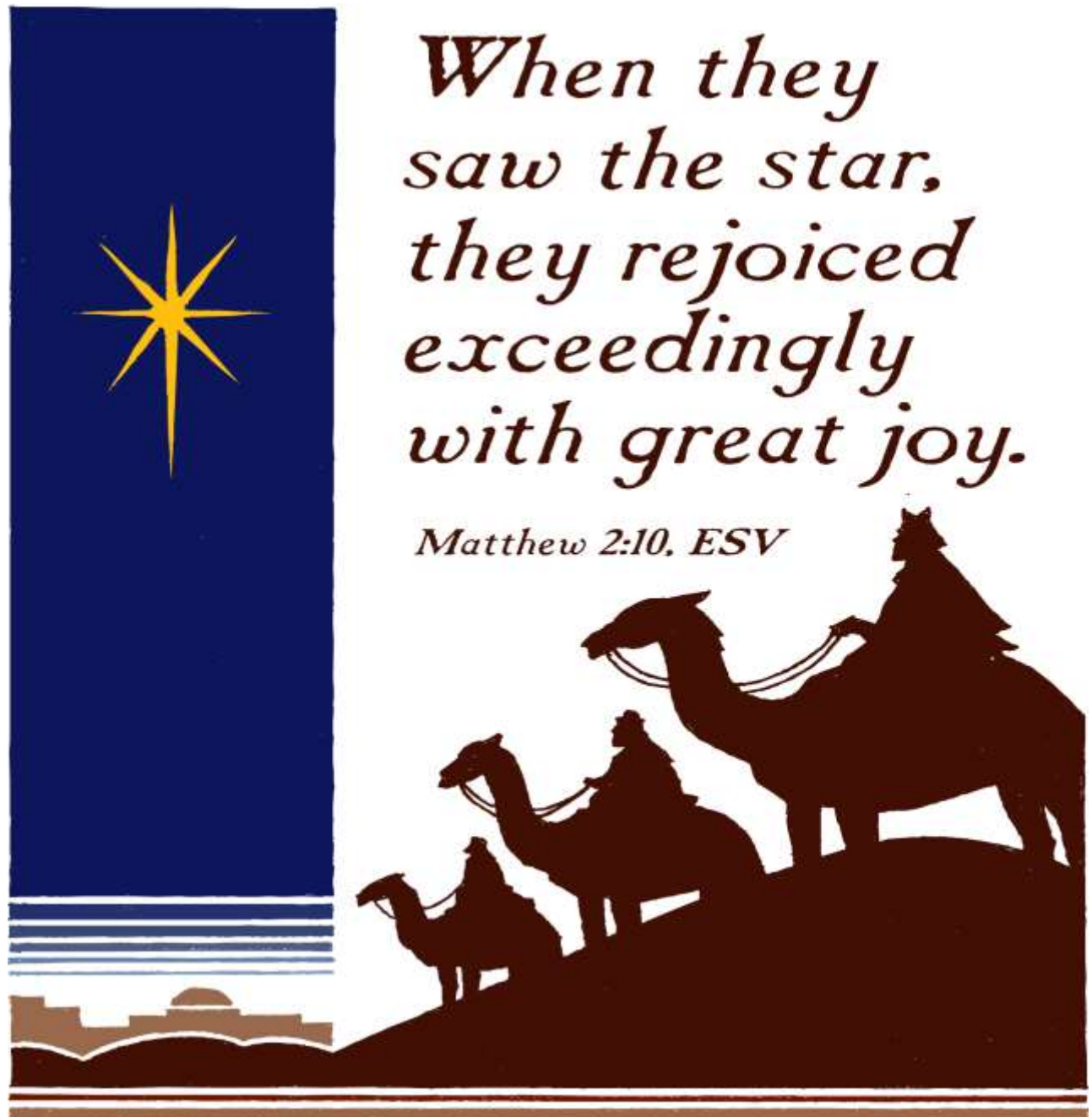
The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24, 2018

6:40 pm—A WREATH OF CAROLS

7:00 pm—FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST & CANDLELIGHTING



*When they
saw the star,
they rejoiced
exceedingly
with great joy.*

Matthew 2:10, ESV



A Wreath of Carols

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

LSB 368

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, Adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

LSB 370

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!**



THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

LSB 361

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

AWAY IN A MANGER

LSB 364

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

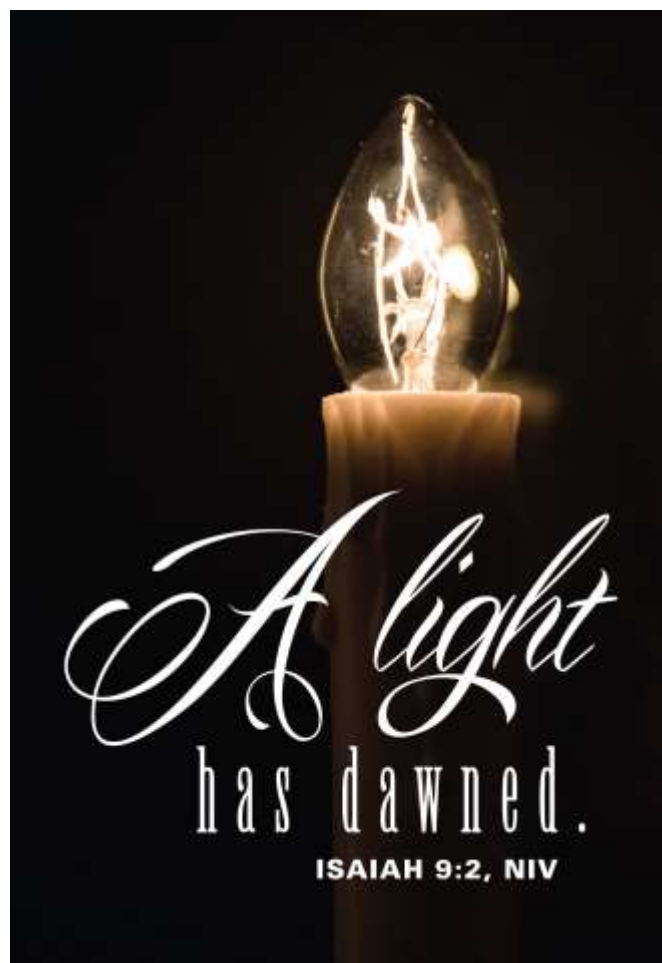
Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

LSB 366

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days have come to pass by prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold,
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.



Divine Worship

Prelude

“Noel XII”

Louis Daequin

Pastoral Greeting

PASTOR LARSON



THE INVOCATION AND RESPONSORIAL

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Pastor Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

People **He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.**

Pastor But Mary treasured up all these things,

People **pondering them in her heart.**



The Processional Cross symbolizes the Christ who takes on human flesh and comes into our midst.

The Carol in Procession

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379

vs. 3, descant arr. Willcocks

**O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the king of Angels:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor The time is fulfilled. Let us repent, confessing our sins to God our Father.
People **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Pastor In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen, so be it! Amen!**



...you will find a babe
wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger.

Luke 2:12, NRSV

CHRISTMAS SONG "Glory to God the Angels Sing"

Kessel

1. Low in a humble man-ger Lit - tle Lord Je - sus lay, Watched by the vir-gin
2. Lit - tle the lov - ing moth - er Dreamed of its mean-ing then, How Heshould die on

6

12 moth - er, There on a bed of hay, Keep - ing her lov - ing vig - il Far from the world-ly
Cal - v'ry, Die for the sins of men Down thru the wea - ry a - ges, Out from the man-ger

17 throngs, When thru the night ___ came ring - ing Glor - ri - ous an - gel songs,
bed Streams all the light ___ of heav - en, Soon o'er the world to spread.

21 "Glo - ry to God" ___ the an - gels sing; Prais - es to Christ, the new - born King;

25 "Peace be on earth ___ good will to men" Hear we the an - gels sing a-gain

29 "Glo - ry to God" ___ the an - gels sing; Prais - es to Christ, the new - born King;

"Peace be on earth ___ good will to men, Good will to men!"

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor *Let us pray.* O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that, as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Christmas Jubilation

"Starry Night

arr. Brenda E. Austin

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7

(“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music

“ Candlelight Carol”

arr. John Rutter
Ascension Chorale

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

(We await our blessed hope, the glory of our great God.)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Christmas Jubilation “Angels We Have Heard on High” arr. Chapman/McChesney
Gloria Dei Handbell Ringers

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

(The birth of Jesus)

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

People Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while

Pastor That God, outside of time and space, would so move the leaders of this world that they use every opportunity to reflect His care for the nations and areas they serve, let us pray to the Lord,
People O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!
Pastor Into Your almighty and gracious hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
People Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace

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

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you

**May the LORD
bless his people
with peace!**

Psalm 29:11, NRSV



THE OFFERING

A Christmas Anthem "What Child is This?"

Joel Raney
Ascension Choral

The Offertory Prayer

Pastor God of glory,
People receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

The Preface

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

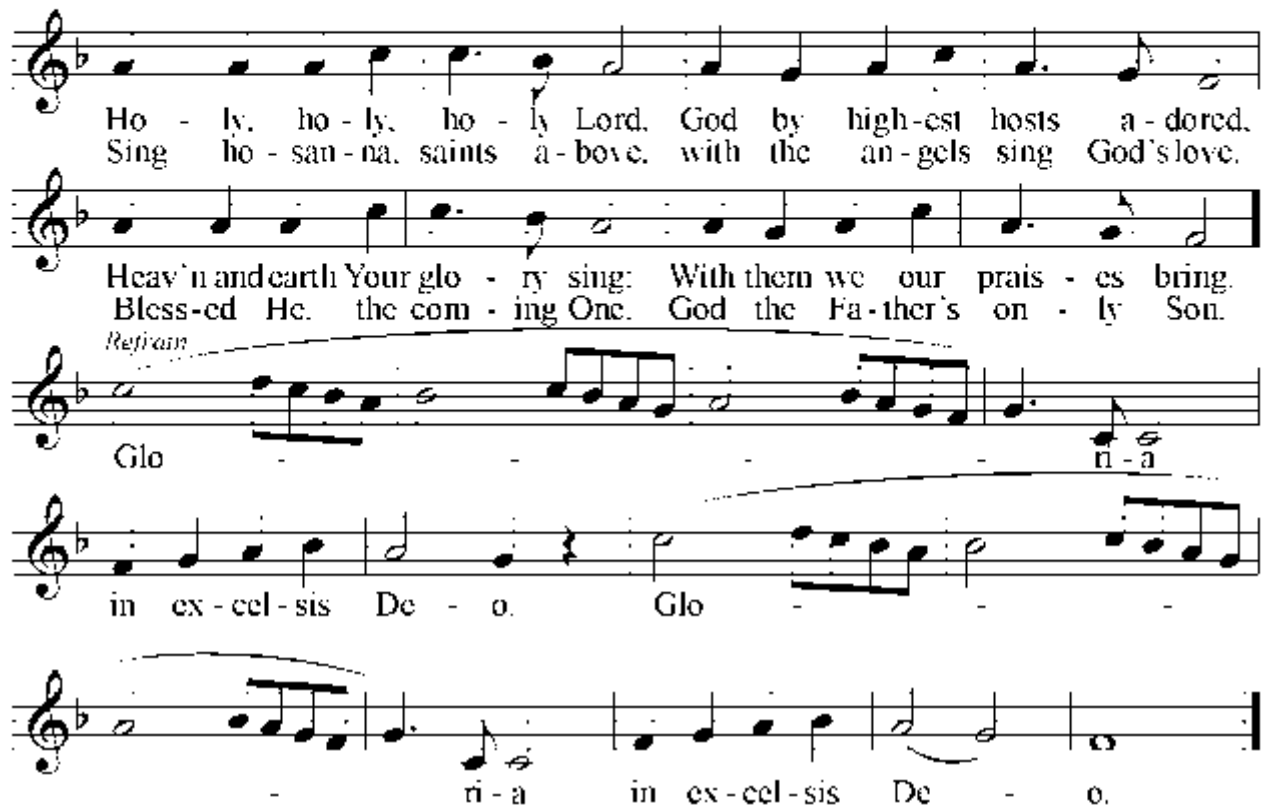
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



The Sanctus *(Sung to the tune: Angels We Have Heard on High)*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God by high-est hosts a - dored.
Sing ho - san - na, saints a - bove, with the an - gels sing God's love.

Heav'n and earth Your glo - ry sing: With them we our prais - es bring.
Bless-ed He, the com - ing One, God the Fa - ther's on - ly Son.

Refrain

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

The Words of Consecration

Pastor 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



The 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.

O Lamb of God

Dix

O Lamb of God, who takes a - way The whole world's
sin, now hear us pray: Have mer - cy on us,
grant us peace, From all our sins give us re-lease.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

“For Unto Us a Child is Born”

Handel

arr. Mark Hayes
Diana Gaide, pianist

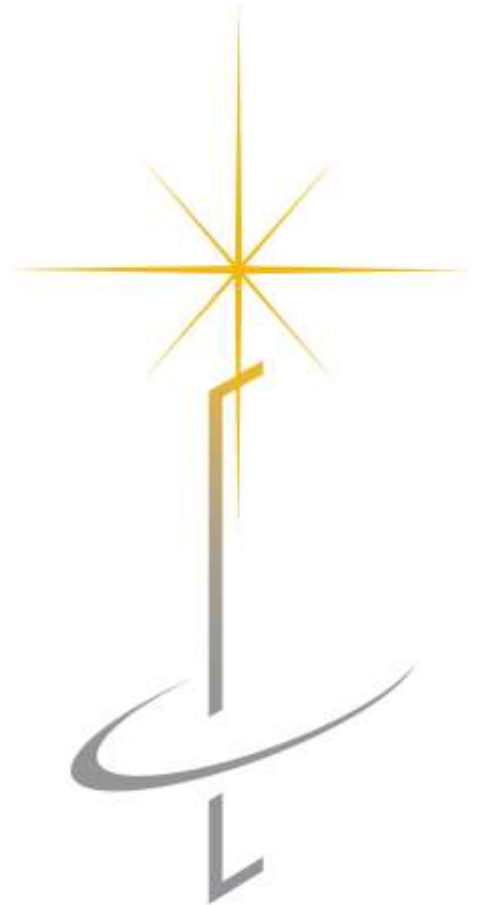
“O Sing of Christ”

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Christmas Organ Music

LSB 362

LSB 377



SILENT
NIGHT

The Communion Benediction

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

People Amen.

The Post Communion Prayer

Pastor We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

Candles are lit from the center aisle; please pass the light to one another being careful to hold the candle upright as not to burn yourself with the wax. Let Christ's light be shared! The candles may remain lit through the end of the service.

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

LSB 363

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**



The Benediction

Pastor May Almighty God, by whose mercy our Savior the Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing.

People Amen.

Pastor May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People Amen.

Pastor May you, who rejoice in the first advent of our Redeemer, at His second advent receive, by His great mercy, unending life.

People Amen.

Pastor And the blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People Amen.

Congregational Concerns

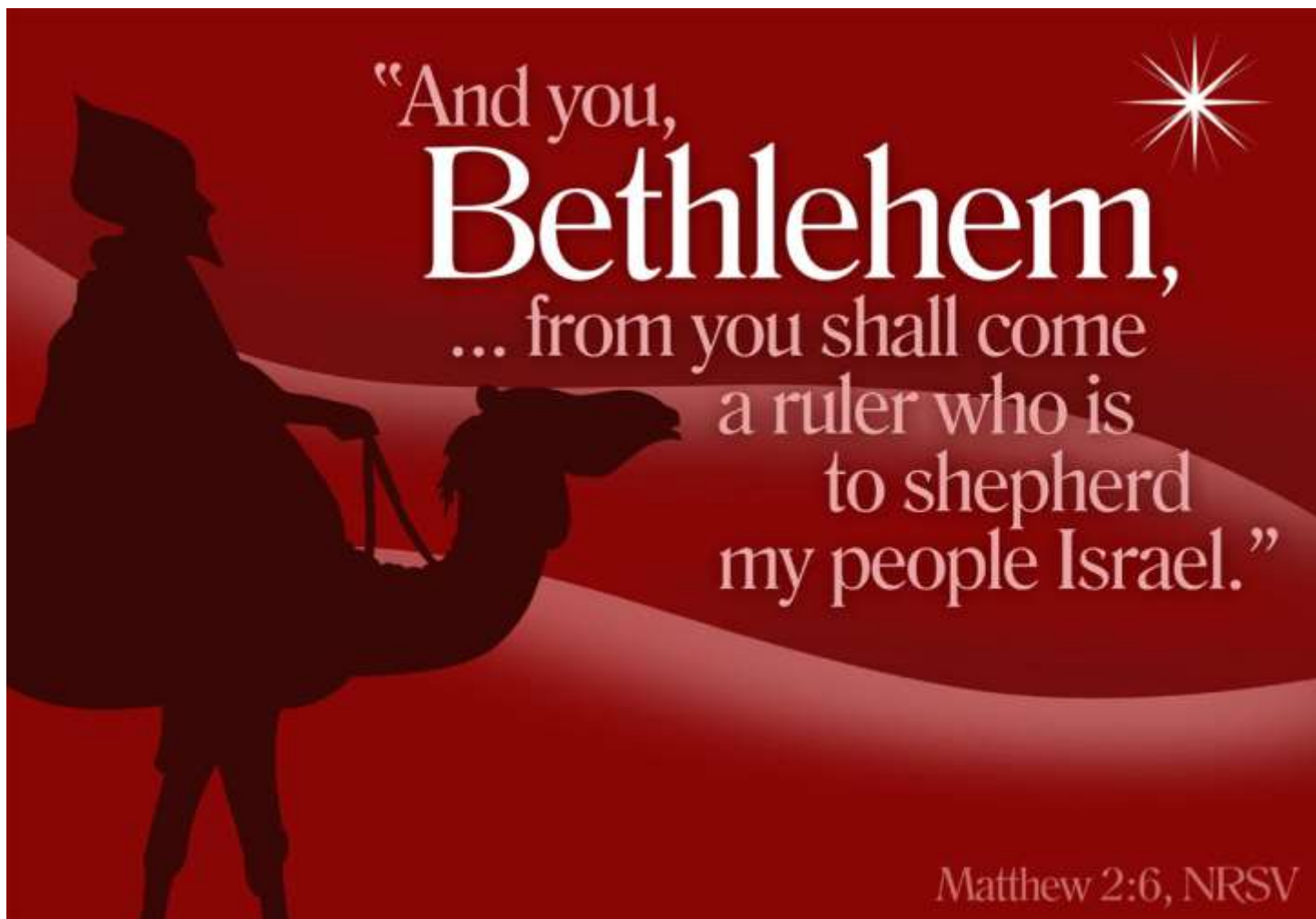
Pastor Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Postlude

“Carillon on ‘Come All Ye Shepherds’”

Gordon Young



Serving in Worship

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - CHRISTMAS EVE
7:00 PM

OFFICIANT & CELEBRANT	The Reverend John R. Larson, PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES	Michael Zehnder
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST	Diana Gaide
ELDER	Scott Luethy
CHOIRS	The Ascension Chorale The Gloria Dei Ringers
CRUCIFER	Kelly Brown
LECTOR	Mike Reimnitz
GREETERS	Members of the Congregation
USHERS	Members of the Congregation
ALTAR GUILD	Gloria Mielke, Dawn Munson, Charmaine Rohde, Barb Williams
FLOWERS GIVEN BY:	Dave and Anita Baresel in joyful celebration of their 52nd wedding anniversary (on December 23)



Silent Night,

Holy Night