

# Nativity of our Lord

*December 24, 2020*



**First Lutheran Church Springfield**

30 South Wittenberg Ave., Springfield, OH 45501

[www.flcspringfield.org](http://www.flcspringfield.org)

# Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm

Telephone Number: (937) 323-9703

Website: [www.flcspringfield.org](http://www.flcspringfield.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/flcspringfield](http://www.facebook.com/flcspringfield)

Instagram and Twitter: @flcspringfield

Pastor

Rev. Aly Mazzei

Church Administrator

Adele Siegel

Director of Music and Worship

Matthew Moquin-Lee

Organist and Accompanist

Terry Donat

We welcome you into our community of followers of Jesus and hope that as you worship with us you will come to know the presence of God and the warmth and hospitality of this community of faith.

First Lutheran Church is a member of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a church so deeply rooted in the gospel of God's grace that we are free to give our lives joyfully in witness and service. Founded in 1840, First Lutheran has a rich tradition as a caring and supportive family of faith desiring to embody the love of Jesus Christ.

For **HOLY COMMUNION**, you are encouraged to have elements on hand at home to receive. It is best practice that the elements be:

- 1) something made from grain (bread, crackers, or gluten free alternative) and
- 2) a "fruit of the vine" (grape juice, wine).

They do not have to be fancy. Wonder Bread and Welch's Grape Juice (red or white) are just fine. And you do not need fancy containers. A small plate (church word is "paten") and a glass or cup (church word is "chalice") are just fine.

The point of a sacrament is that God takes ordinary human elements and makes them holy so that we might receive God's grace. So whatever humble offering you have is more than adequate.

In Luther's Small Catechism, he talks about Holy Communion in question and answer format. One of the questions asks how eating and drinking can accomplish such amazing things as forgiveness, life, and salvation. Luther's response: "Eating and drinking certainly do not do it, but rather the words that are recorded: 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sin.' These words, when accompanied by the physical eating and drinking, are the essential thing in the sacrament, and whoever believes these very words has what they declare and state, namely, 'forgiveness of sin.'" Therefore, hearing the Word spoken from our altar at First, you will receive God's promises to you in the bread and wine.

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

**PRELUDE**

**SUSSEX CAROL  
GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN**

**ARR. LUTHER HENDERSON**

### **FIRST LUTHERAN BRASS QUINTET**

LAWRENCE WILEY, TRUMPET I

KENNETH TAYLOR, TRUMPET II

COLVIN BEAR, HORN

THOMAS BILLING, TROMBONE

PETER RAUCH, BASS TROMBONE

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

The people who have stumbled in darkness now have their paths illuminated.

For those dwelling in a land of deep shadows, radiance shines forth.

In the beginning, when the world was in chaos, the divine Spirit hovered over the waters.

In that same beginning, there was the Word; and the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. God brought forth the bright blessed day and the dark sacred night and declared them to be good.

In the fullness of time, the Word, that divine love, put on flesh to stay among us.

And we saw the Word's glory, filled with grace, filled with truth.

Love illuminated the world, and the shadows did not overcome it.

We have been given the gift of love.

Sometimes it is a flicker and sometimes it is a blaze, but the divine love is within us; it is what we carry into the world.

The places of shadows and stumbling yearn for the radiant beams we carry, this holy night.

**Amen**



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;



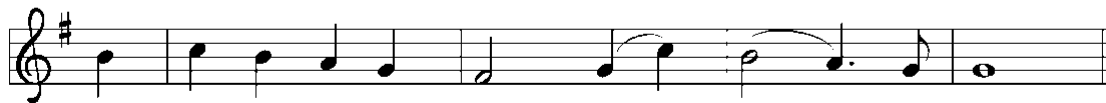
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



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**

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

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Your deepest desire is for us to know your justice and righteousness. Open our eyes to see how you break into this world as a transforming force of love, joy and peace. Still the fears of our hearts that we might see your glory. Show us the signs, that we can share your story, your love, your mercy and your peace.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

### MANGER LULLABY

HART MORRIS

KATHY SIEGEL, HANDBELLS

TERRY DONAT, PIANO

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

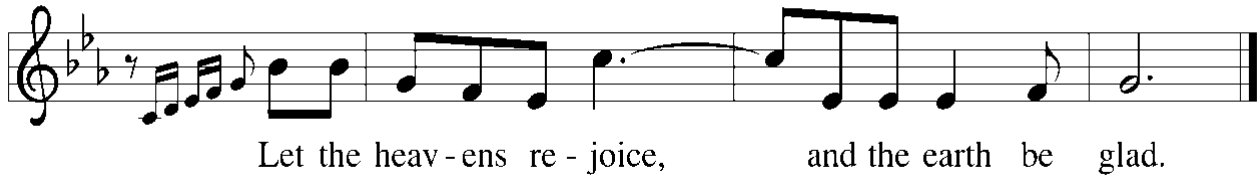
- 2 The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.
- 3 You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- 4 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.
- 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: PSALM 96

REFRAIN: (SUNG RESPONSIVELY)



- <sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD| a new song;  
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- <sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,  
more to be feared | than all gods.**
- <sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- <sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**
- <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- <sup>10</sup>**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 peo- | ples with equity."**
- <sup>11</sup>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.
- <sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,  
for you come to | judge the earth.**
- <sup>13</sup>You will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

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

A reading from Titus.

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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!

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION IS REPEATED.*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**TRACY BLEVINS**

**HOMILY**

**"DO NOT BE AFRAID"**

**REV. ALY MAZZEI**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**ELW #270**



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!



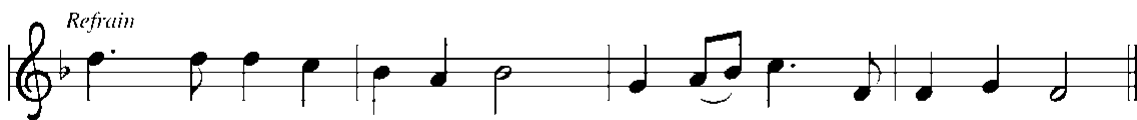
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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!"



## **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**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief moment of silence.*

Wonderful counselor, on this holy night your church throughout the world celebrates the Word of God being born among us. Endow your church with a zeal for sharing your love and grace with all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of hosts, the heavens are glad, the earth rejoices, and the trees sing for joy at your coming. Grant us wisdom to care for your creation in ways that benefit all of your creatures. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Prince of peace, your grace has appeared and brings salvation to all. Bring healing to people and nations divided by violence. Direct the leaders of the nations, so that in self-controlled, upright, and godly living, they may work toward peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God of mercy, you come among us as a vulnerable infant. Protect all in need: those without homes or caregivers, those who grieve, all who are hungry, and all who are ill (*especially those we name now silently or aloud*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we praise you for gathering us tonight to worship in holy splendor. Direct our worship, fellowship, and service, so that our lives and Christian witness may be pleasing to you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, your steadfast love never ends. Thank you for revealing your faithfulness and love to us through the saints of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**OFFERING**

**BRING A TORCH, JEANETTE, ISABELLA**

**ARR. LUTHER HENDERSON**

FIRST LUTHERAN BRASS QUINTET

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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 their unending hymn:



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



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



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to 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.**

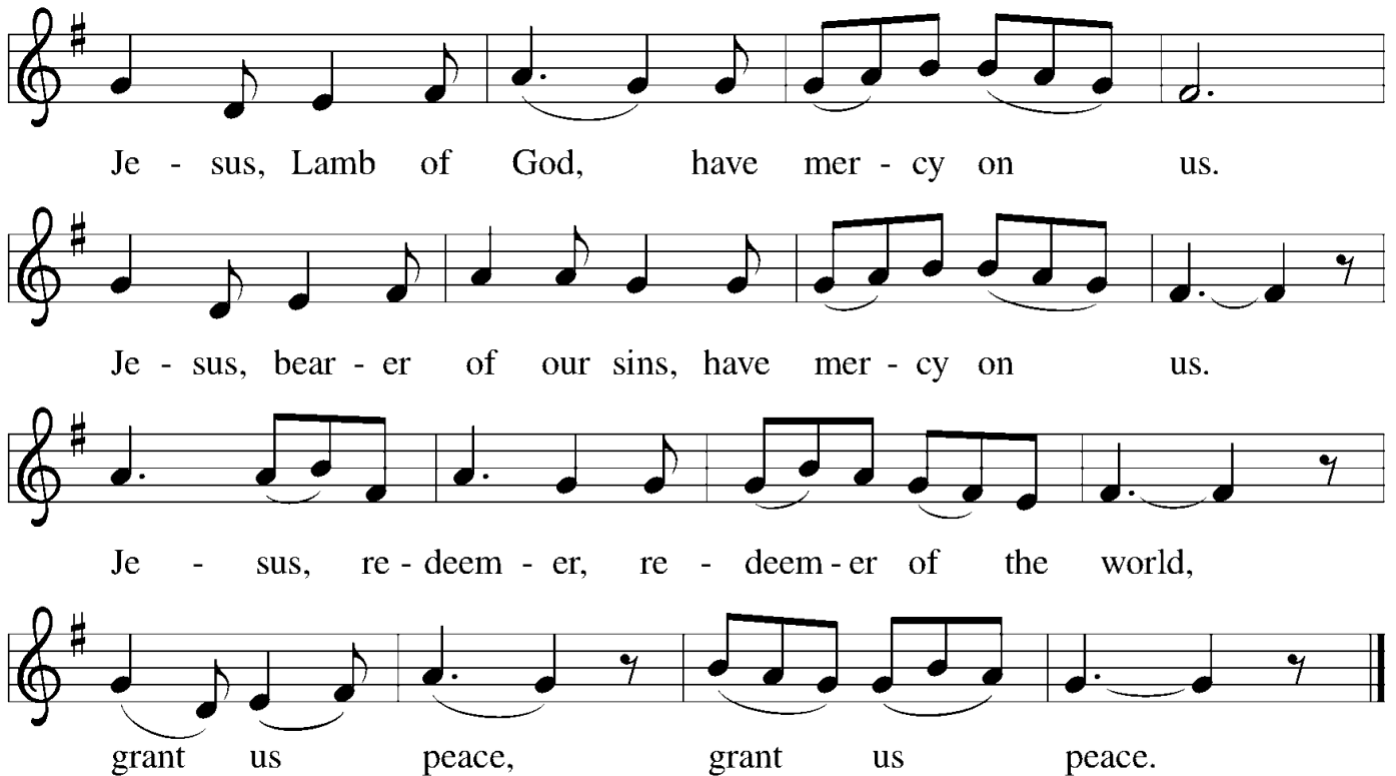
**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Love has come: God's love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

## COMMUNION

*The Lord's Supper is God's meal for those who desire to know God through this sacrament. Admission to the Lord's Supper is by Christ's invitation, offered through the church to the baptized. We practice eucharistic hospitality, meaning Lutheran and other Christian faith communities are welcomed to the Lord's Table.*



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,

**Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.**

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

CANDLE LIGHTING

### "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!"

ELW #281

KRISTINA BRYANT, STANZA IN GERMAN



*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

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

**Amen.**



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.

**DISMISSAL**

Christ is born!

Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE****VOLUNTARY ON TWO CAROLS****DAVID KIDWELL**

TERRY DONAT, ORGAN

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**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

<p><b><u>Lectors</u></b> Eli Zaleha Shay Zaleha</p>	<p><b><u>Assisting Minister</u></b> Heath Queen</p> <p><b><u>Children's Moment</u></b> Tracy Blevins</p>	<p><b><u>Acolytes</u></b> Jamy Stiles Jeana Stiles</p>
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