

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

Friday, December 24th, 6:30 pm



CONCORDIA

Lutheran Church
Preschool & University Ministry

1015 NE Orchard Dr. Pullman, WA 99163
(509) 332-2830, www.concordiapullman.org

Matt Gulseth,
Pastor
matt.gulseth@concordiapullman.org

Elizabeth O'Loughlin,
Church Life Coordinator
ElizabethOloughlin@concordiapullman.org

Amber King,
Preschool Director
preschool@concordiapullman.org

Jodie Stahlecker,
Administrative Assistant
jodie.stahlecker@concordiapullman.org

IN TIME, AS PROMISED

AS WE GATHER

Throughout history, our gracious God has made outlandish promises. His spokesmen, the writers of biblical books, said that a descendant of David would come to sit on an eternal royal throne. More than that, His titles would include some reserved for God in heaven. He was and is a Wonderful Counselor, revealing God's love in His own life and death; the Mighty God, though hidden within fragile flesh and blood; the Everlasting Father, though trapped in time and space; and the Prince of Peace, ruling not by enforcement of divine law but by forgiving all who call to Him for grace and mercy. Today, we celebrate His birth among us in time, as promised long ago and in our hearts each day.

+ PREPARATION +

379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

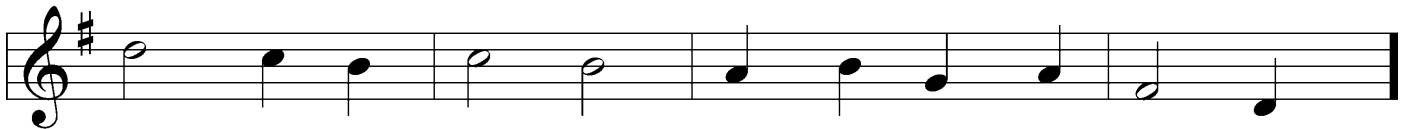
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1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



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!

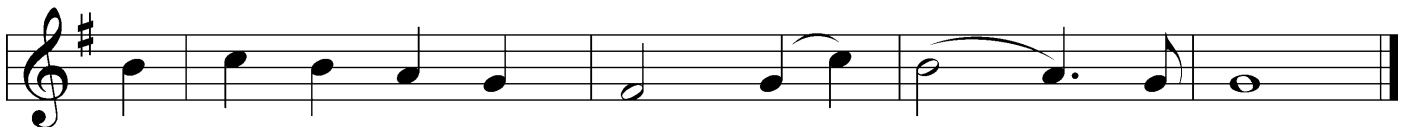


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

+ HOLY BAPTISM +

(Shireen and Diana Cady)

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

(The pastor addresses each candidate:)

P How are you named?

R [Name]

(The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:)

P [Name], receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold [name(s)] according to Your boundless mercy and bless [him/her/them] with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in [him/her/them], which has been inherited from Adam and which [he himself / she herself / they themselves] [has/have] committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that [he/she/they] be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, [he/she/they] would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

P Is it your intention to serve [name of candidate(s)] as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R Yes, with the help of God.

P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

C Amen.

(The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s), and the congregation joins in praying:)

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

(The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:)

P [Name(s)], do you renounce the devil?

R Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

R Yes, I believe.

P [Name], do you desire to be baptized?

R Yes, I do.

(The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:)

P [Name], I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:)

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

C Amen.

(The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:)

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

P Heavenly Father, You sent Your own Son into this world as the child of the virgin Mary. We thank You for the life of this child entrusted to our care. Help us remember that we are all Your children and so love and nurture [him/her] that [he/she] may attain to the full stature intended for [him/her] in Your eternal kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

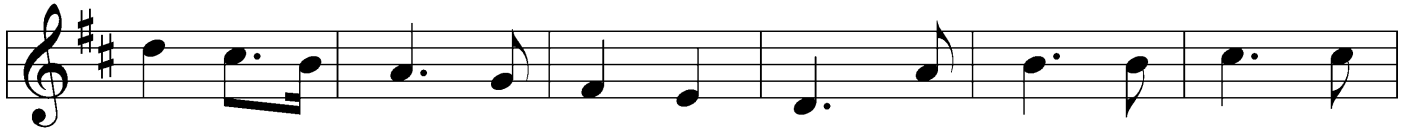
P Peace † be with you.

C Amen.

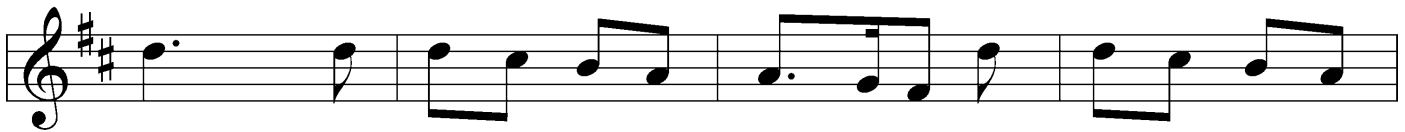
+ WORD +

387 JOY TO THE WORLD

sts. 1-3



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings



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



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.

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

- C** Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge;

- P** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.

- C** Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

352 LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD

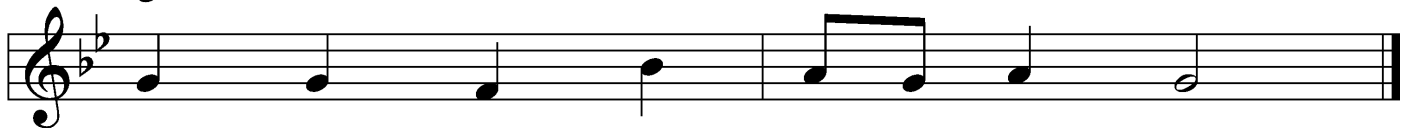
sts. 1-2, 4



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

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+ LESSONS AND CAROLS +

LESSON

Isaiah 11:1, 4a; Numbers 24:15b, 17a; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2

P Our gracious God did not become one of us unexpectedly; rather, through the ages, He promised to enter human history to save us. Let us hear some of the prophecies and respond in song.

L Isaiah wrote about a descendant of Jesse, David's father:
 "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. With righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth."

359 LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

st. 1



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the

cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.

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PART 1, LESSON 4

L Micah foretold where Jesus would be born.

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.”

361 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

st. 1

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.

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P It is not enough to look back at the historical fact of Jesus’ birth; today we celebrate the love God showers on us daily, which we share, and about which we sing in later stanzas of these same hymns.

GRADUAL

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P To us a child is born,
C to us a son is given;

P and the government shall be upon His shoulder.
C And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P Sing to the Lord a new song,
C for He has done marvelous things!

LESSON*1 John 4:7–9, 10–12, 15–16; Titus 2:11–14***L** In his First Epistle, John writes,

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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.”

359 LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING*st. 2*

2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.

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L John continues,

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.”

357 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL*sts. ref, 7*

7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

L And John concludes,

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

st. 7

7 From the man - ger new - born light Shines in glo - ry
through the night. Dark - ness there no more re - sides;
In this light faith now a - bides.

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PART 2, LESSON 4

L Paul writes to Titus and us:

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.”

361 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

sts. 3-4



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;



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.



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;



Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Dear people of God, once again we have heard the message of the angels, visited Bethlehem with shepherds and Magi, and beheld the Son of God in human flesh, born of the Virgin Mary and lying in a manger. Now let us respond with praise and prayer, rejoicing to offer Him our petitions and supplications on behalf of ourselves and everyone according to their need, confident that He will answer with all that is good, right, and best for us all.

Silence for meditation

P Merciful Father, we have lived through a time of great uncertainty and fear and now come again into Your presence on this most holy of nights. Deliver us from all epidemics, from the perils of war and violence, and from the loss of job and home. Open our hearts to receive with faith the joy of our Savior's coming and to trust in His salvation forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed Lord, give to those most in need the courage and patience to await Your deliverance, and give to us kind and generous hearts that we share Your gifts with those around us and multiply the blessing of Your rich and daily provision. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O gracious God, deliver Your people from all their afflictions of body and soul, give aid and comfort to the hospitalized, be present with the aged and infirm, and give to the dying and the

grieving Your peace, [*especially . . .*], and those now named in our hearts [*silence*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O wise and faithful Father, deliver Your Church from her enemies, and provide her with faithful pastors to serve the Means of Grace to us in Your name. Give Your guidance to those who lead us in our Synod, district, and circuit, and bless especially our pastors, church workers, missionaries, and those preparing for full-time service. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Mighty Lord, You have power over all things. Aid our government and elected leaders with Your Word and Spirit that they be guided by Your commands to pursue justice and work for the common good. Teach them and us the value of life and to work for the protection of the unborn, the care of the widow and orphan, and the support of the aged. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O loving God, we give You thanks that Mary heard Your Word and pondered it in her heart and that Joseph served Your Son so faithfully. Bless husbands, wives, parents, children, and all families. Help us to ponder Your Word in our hearts and to live it out that our homes be places of blessing and peace. Accept our songs of praise and the tithes and offerings we bring in response to Your mercy and as signs of our gratitude and faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

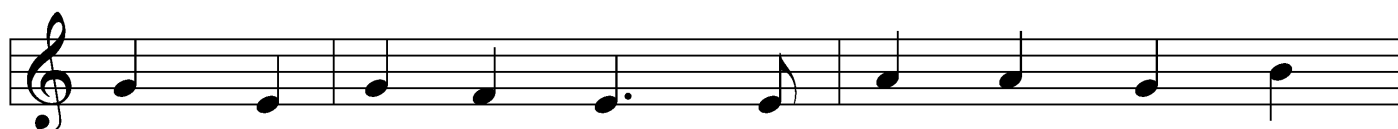
OFFERING

358 FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME

sts. 1-2



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

Text and tune: Public domain

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Receive, heavenly Father, these our offerings, signs of Your goodness and symbols of our love. Accept them for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was born among us that He could die for us.

C Amen.

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P 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 saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
2 Sing ho - san - na, saints a - bove;



God by the high - est hosts a - dored,
With the an - gels, sing God's love.

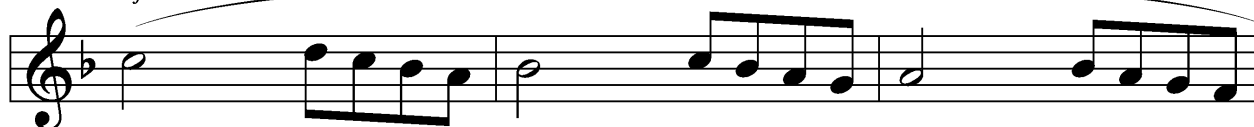


Heav'n and earth Your glo - ry sing;
Blest is He, the com - ing One;



With them we our prais - es bring.
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.

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THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”
 In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
G Amen.

O LAMB OF GOD, OUR SAVIOR

O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, All sins You take a - way.

Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus, And grant us peace, we pray.

Re - jice we at Your birth: “To God on high be

glo - ry And peace to all the earth!”

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+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

368 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

359 LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

384 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

364 AWAY IN A MANGER

CANDLELIGHTING

366 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

sts. 1, 4



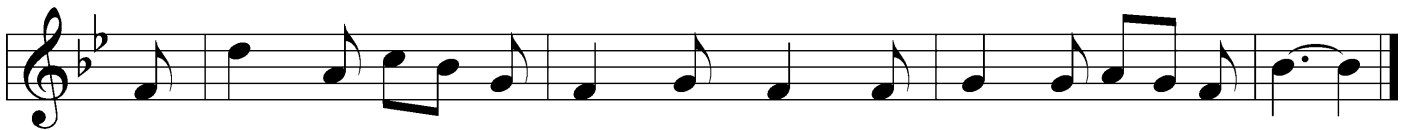
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

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HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:8–17 (KJV)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will

toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

363 SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

sts. 1-3



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,



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 Thy ho - ly face



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 Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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COLLECT

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

C Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;

P through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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