Christmas Day

December 25, 2025
9:00 am Worship

St. Martin's Lutheran Church + Archbold, Ohio
www.the-welcome-place.org

CHRISTMAS DAY **DECEMBER 25, 2025**

✢ Nativity of Our Lord ✢

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore…Savior, Christ, Lord.

Regular text is spoken by the Pastor or Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

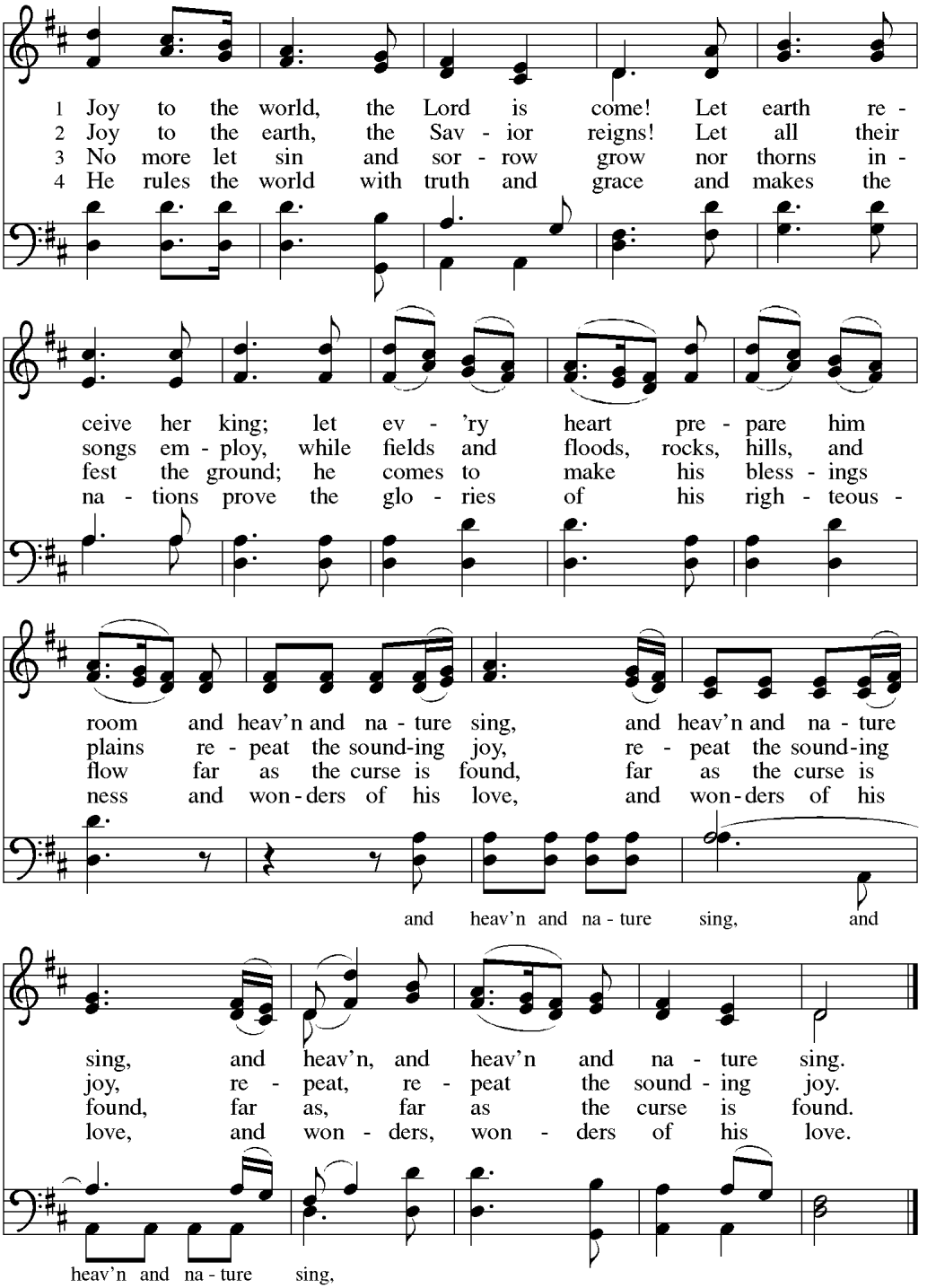
We Gather to Worship

PRELUDE

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** – *(Isaiah 9, John 1 & Luke 2)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!

*Opening Hymn — *"Joy to the World"*

*Greeting and Prayer of the Day

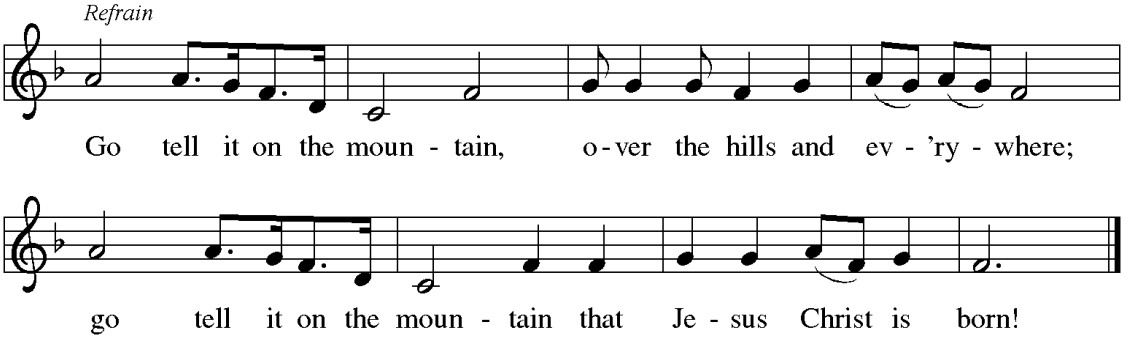
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choir of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name.

Amen

We Hear God's Message for Us

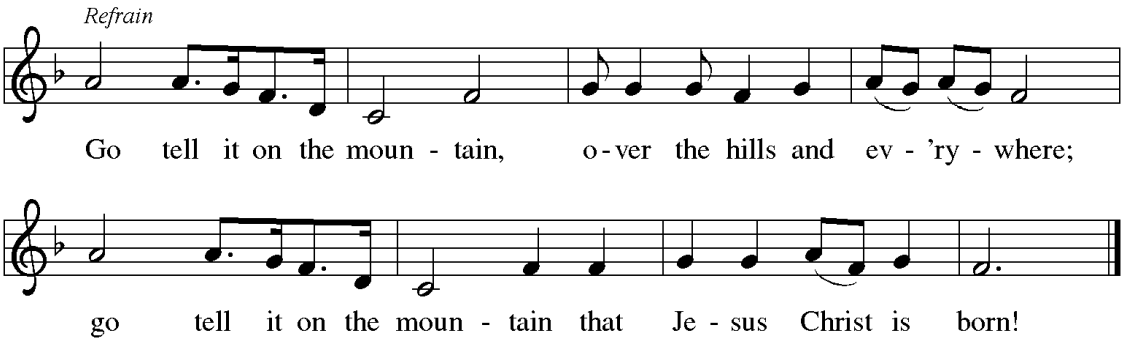


Old Testament Reading - *Isaiah 52:7–10*

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
9 Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10 The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Word of God come down to us.

Thanks be to God.

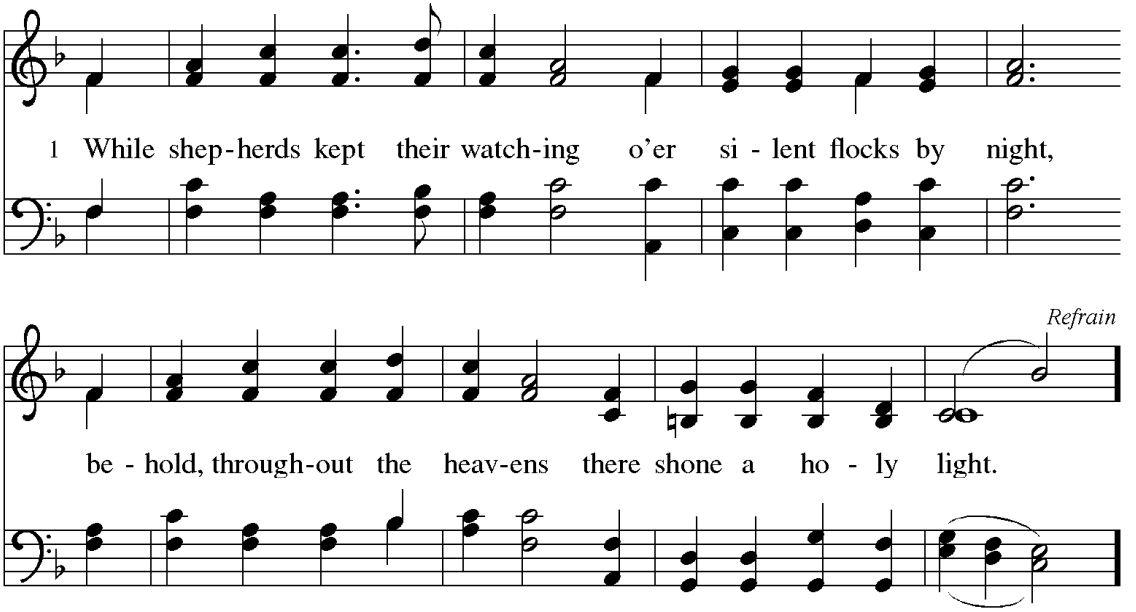


NEW TESTAMENT READING - *Hebrews 1:1–4*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, [2]but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. [3]He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, [4]having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

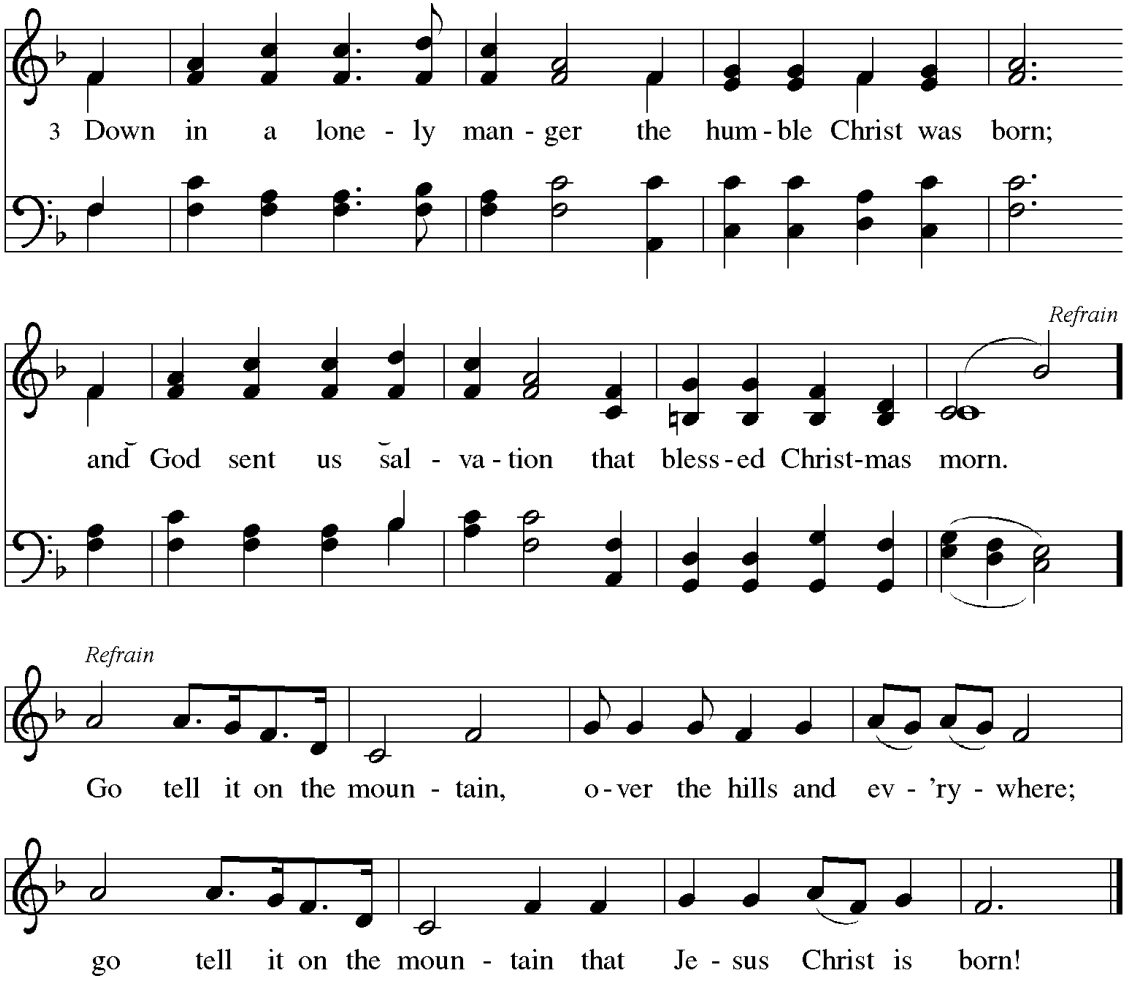
Word of God come down to us.

Thanks be to God.

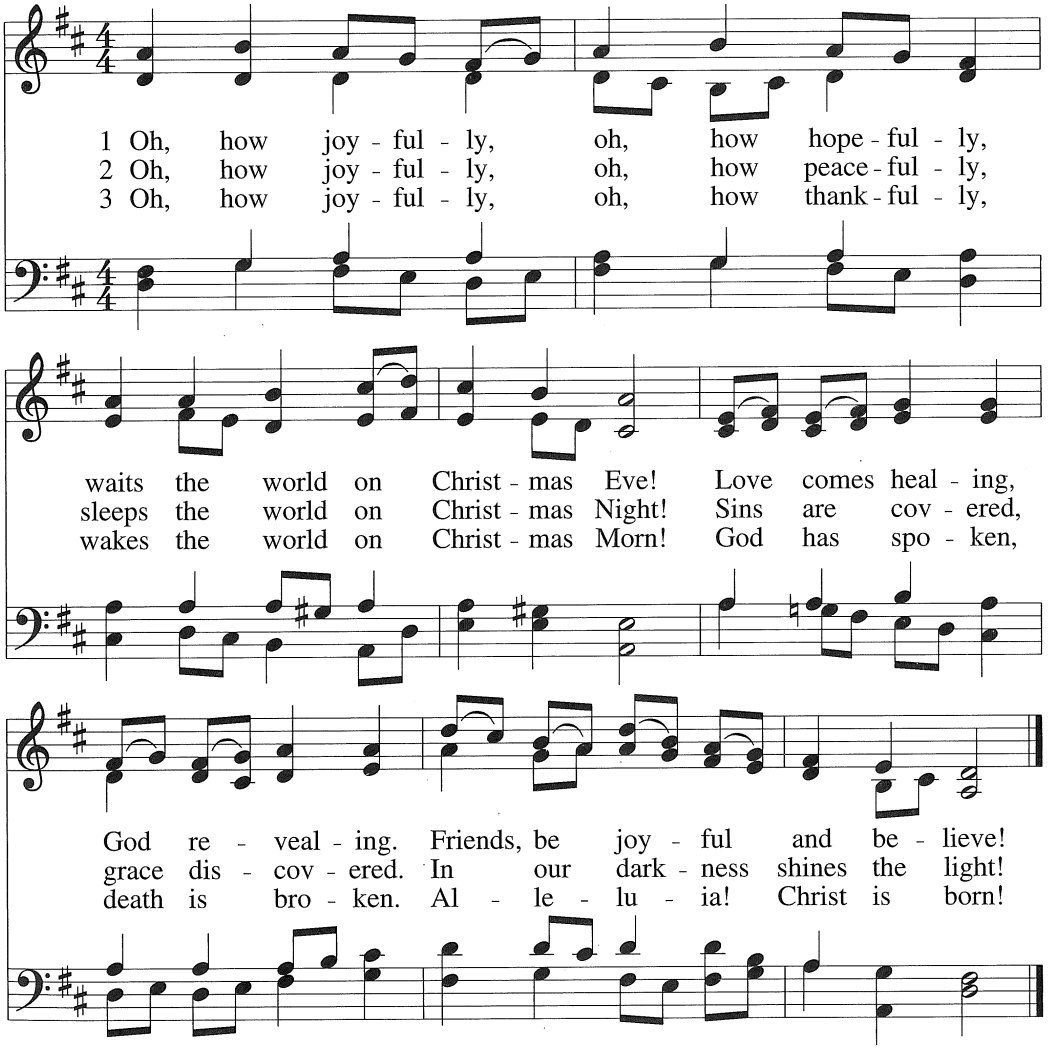


GOSPEL READING – *Luke 2:16-20*

16 They [the shepherds] hurried to the village [Bethlehem] and found Mary and Joseph.
And there was the baby, lying in the manger. **17** After seeing him, the shepherds told
everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. **18** All
who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, **19** but Mary kept all these things in her
heart and thought about them often. **20** The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying
and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Word of God come down to us.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

We Respond to God's Message

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Oh, How Joyfully"

*PROFESSION OF FAITH – *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 THE CHURCH

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on those who struggle,
and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may share your light to all the world.

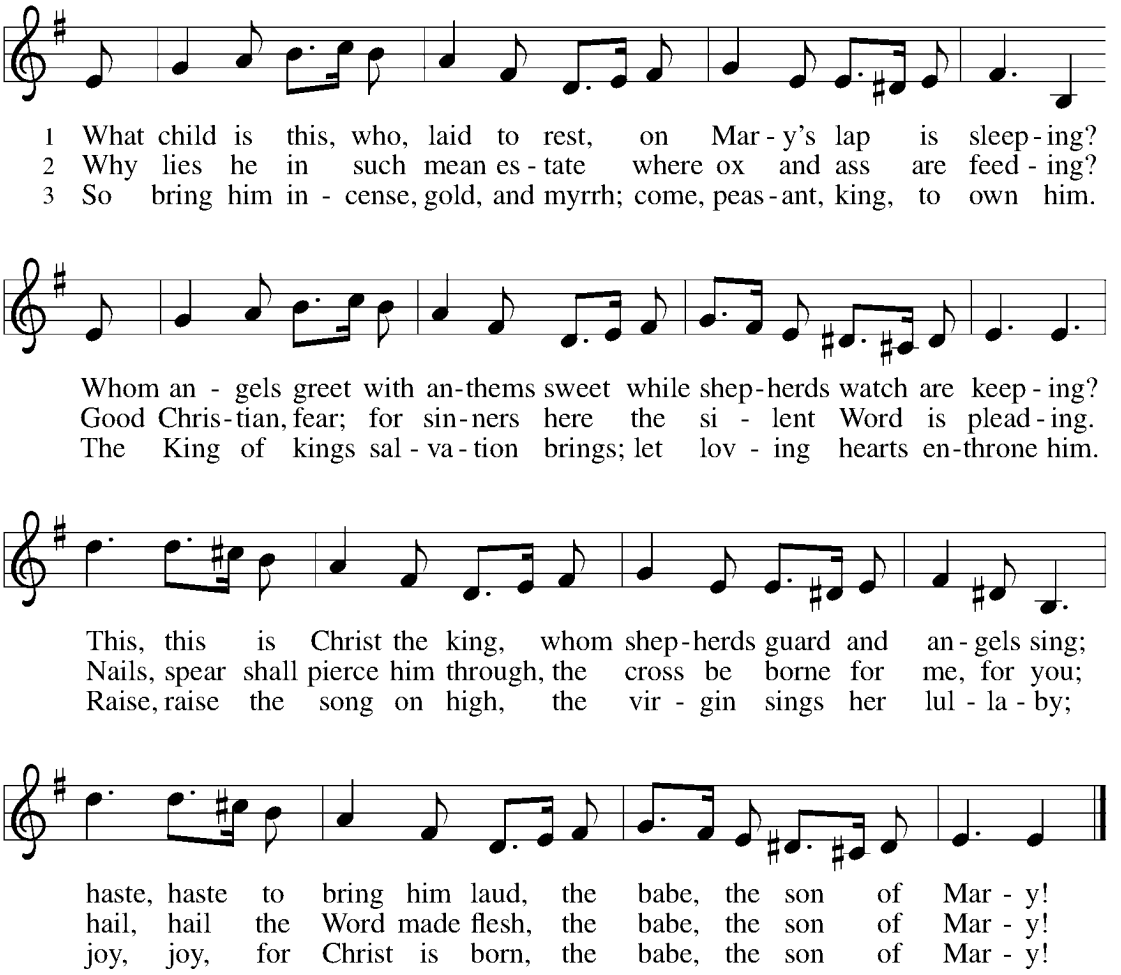
Additional prayer petitions are offered here…concluding with:

By your grace, transform our prayers from words to deeds. With Mary and Joseph, teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus, and with shepherds and angels, lead us to praise his holy name. **Amen**

*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. *(We share God's peace with the words "Peace be with you")*

* Offering

*Offertory Prayer

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all and source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. On this Christmas Day, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your sons and daughters.

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.

All praise and glory are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

*THE LORD'S PRAYER *(tune: "Away in a Manger")*

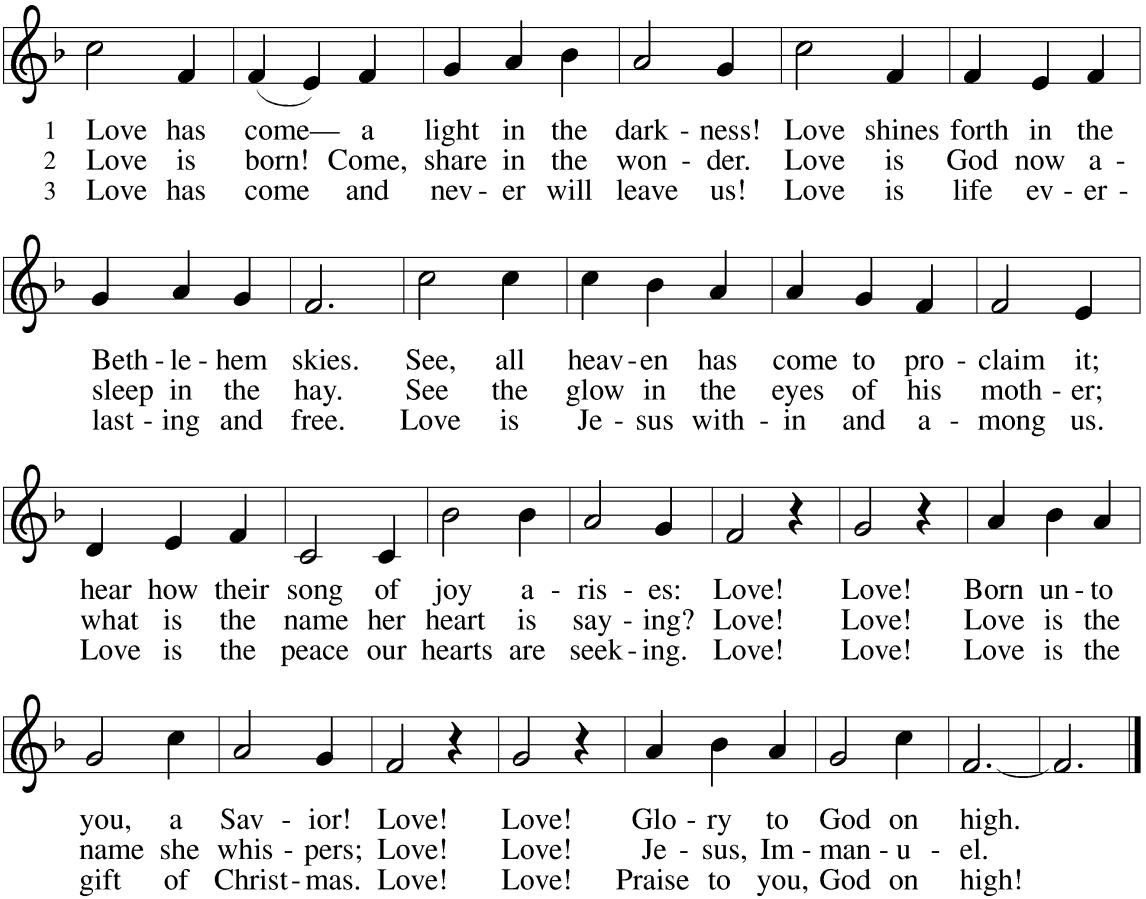
Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels, Come, Lord, reign alone:
O hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others take our sins away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign
And yours is the power; all things you maintain,
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

"Love Has Come"



*BLESSING

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

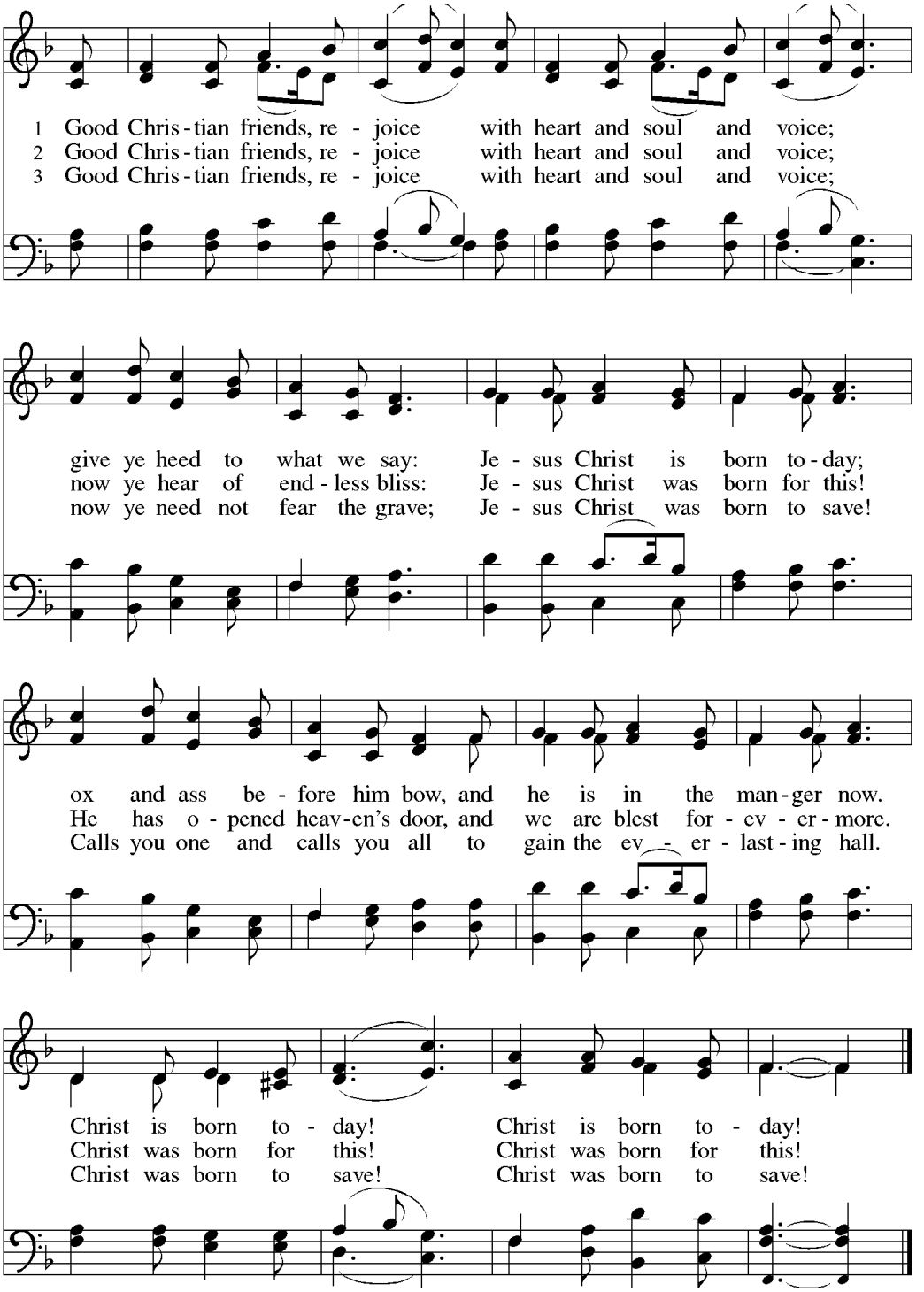
*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Strengthened by this sacrament, send us from this place so that we might share Christ's love with the entire world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.
Amen

*BENEDICTION

We go from here proclaiming the glory of God.
Believing that there is a light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome.

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth,
bring joy to our hearts this day and always.
May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for us,
fill our lives with love and peace.
May Emmanuel, God with us, be with us in all of our celebrations,
until he brings us into his eternal kingdom.
And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen

*CLOSING HYMN *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Presiding: Pastor Steve Basselman
Organist: Matthew Wachtman
Acolyte: Jalen Thompson

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

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Merry Christmas! We welcome you to worship as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please come back and worship with us again. Our regular schedule resumes January 4.

Regular Sunday Worship – 9:00 am + Sunday School – 10:20 am
Wednesday Informal Worship – 6:00 pm
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2025 Christmas Poinsettias

Pat Basselman in honor of 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren
Jeff & Jo Ann Benecke in memory of Dexter & Janice Benecke and Joseph & Juanita Goubeaux and in honor of grandsons, Levi & Emerson
Dana & Peg Bjorlin in honor of our thankfulness for God's many blessings
Dana & Peg Bjorlin in memory of Wilbur & Doris Koerner and Paul Bjorlin and in honor of Doris Bjorlin
Jeff Mires & Gwen Grisier in memory of Eric Grisier & Julie Mires and in honor of our children
Philip & Carla Hoverman in memory of our parents, Carl & Fae Fogt and Howard & Katherine Hoverman
Linda Parnell in honor of our children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren
Dianne Parsons in memory of family
Michael & Tess Pinter in memory of Alexa & in honor of Maddox, Andi, Emi, & Audra
Greg & Nona Rupp in memory of Suellen Rupp & Steve Liechty and in honor of our children and grandchildren
Jay & Kiley Schnitkey in honor of our children Kasyn, Kaylee, Palmer, and Parker
Cristie Sevey in memory of Keith Sevey
Marilyn Sholl in honor of Greg & Nona Rupp
Don Spohler in memory of Sandie Spohler, Art & Anna Spohler, & Paul & Esther Greene
Sheryl & Scott Spohler in memory of Esther and Paul Greene, Sandie, Anna, and Arthur Spohler
The Trudel's in memory of Jon Trudel and Jim Neff and in honor of John & Janette Trudel
Bonnie Wyse-Meyer in memory of Steve Meyer
The Wyse Family in memory of Wayne & Mabel Wyse
Chris & Tim Ziegler in memory of Alexa Pinter, Harriette & Jr. Eicher and Jim & Willie Ziegler and in honor of our children and grandchildren
Sharon Ziegler in memory of Todd Ziegler