

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

Sunday, December 24, 2023 11:00 pm

Candlelight Carol Service of Holy Communion



GATHERING/WELCOME

Longing for the Light Church Choir
O Wondrous Night Church Choir
Bethlehem Light Church Choir

PRELUDE: *The Shepherd's Story* Handbell Choir

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.

You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.


You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.

You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. All Stand & Sing



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



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



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

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A 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.

C Amen

Assembly is seated.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

(The congregation stands and turns to face the processional cross.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All Stand & Sing

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.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

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

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

(The Reading of the Gospel)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Pastor Micah

HYMN: *What Child is This* All Stand & Sing



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

THE BEHOLD OUR LIGHT PRAYER

(The congregation is invited to kneel and join in the sung responses)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff shows the Cantor and Assembly singing 'Hear our prayer, O Lord.' The second staff is for 'Spoken prayer petitions'. The third staff shows the Cantor and Assembly singing 'Hear our prayer, O Lord.' after each spoken petition. The fourth staff shows the Cantor and Assembly singing 'Hear our prayer, O Lord.' after the 5th petition, followed by 'A - men.'.

Cantor Assembly

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Spoken prayer petitions

After each spoken petition

Cantor Assembly

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

After 5th Petition

Cantor Assembly

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. A - men.

Music: Aaron David Miller © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Hallelujah Chorus Church Choir

Congregation stands on "King of Kings and Lord of Lords..."

OFFERING PRAYER

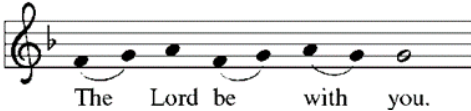




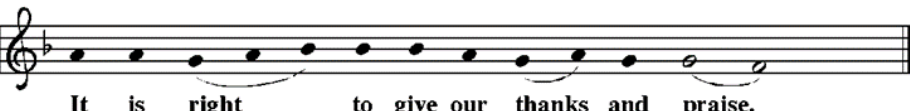
P Gracious God,

C your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

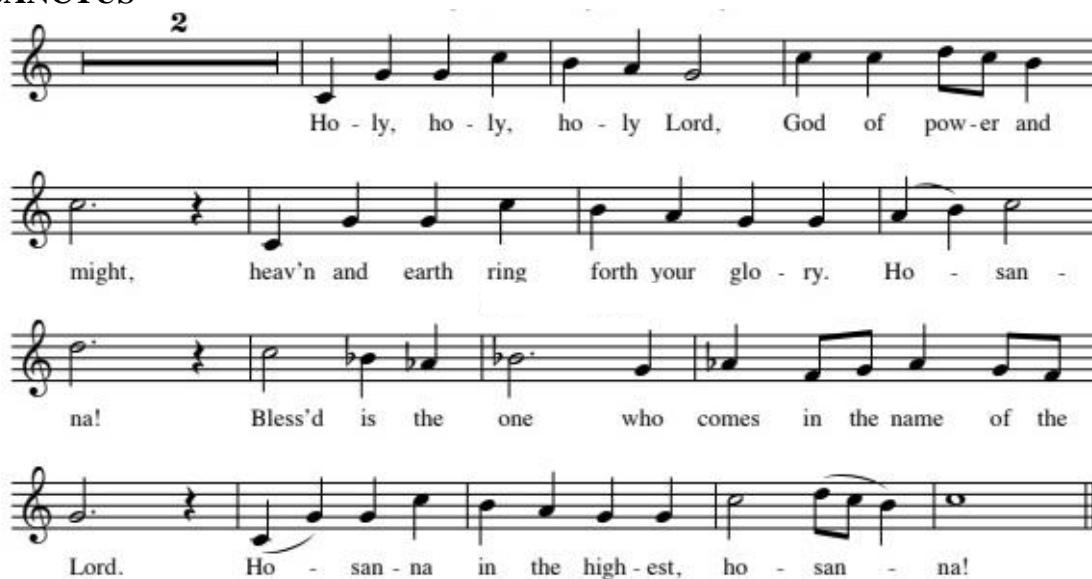
DIALOGUE

	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
		
		
<i>L</i>		
<i>C</i>		

PREFACE

The presiding minister gives God thanks and invites the assembly to join heaven's hymn of Praise: ... " We Praise your name and join their unending hymn" ...

SANCTUS



2
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav'n and earth ring forth your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na! Bless'd is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na!

Text prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988, (alt.)
Music: Aaron David Miller © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION



THE LORD'S PRAYER Tune: *Away In A Manger*

1. 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;
Oh, hear us and bless us
from heaven's high throne.

2. The bread that we yearn for
Provide us each day;
As we forgive others,
Our sins take away;
In times of temptation,
Lead us to be near;
From evil deliver
Your children most dear.

3. For Yours is the kingdom;
o're 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

*All people are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive Christ's real presence and grace.
You are invited forward to take a cup and then kneel around the altar as you're able.
You'll receive the bread and eat, then hold your cup to be filled with wine and drink.
You'll then return to your seat the way you came forward.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Yes! A Carol for Christmas.*Chamber Choir

HYMN: *On Christmas Night* All Sing



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels

Repeat



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born king,
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

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

C Amen.

Remain Standing

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen

CANDLELIGHTING

The pastor will light his candle from the large Christ Candle, which symbolizes Christ, the light of the world. With the assistance of the acolyte, the light will be passed throughout the congregation.

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL: *Silent Night* **All Sing**
(Raise your candle at “*Christ, the Savior is born*” and “*Jesus, Lord at your birth.*”)

1. 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.

2. 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!



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



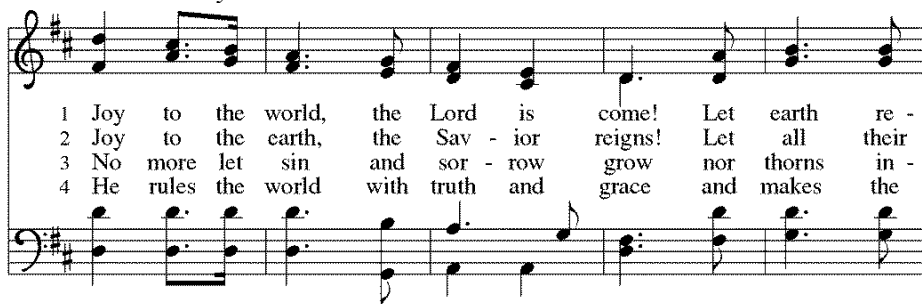
THE BLESSING

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

(Please extinguish your candles)

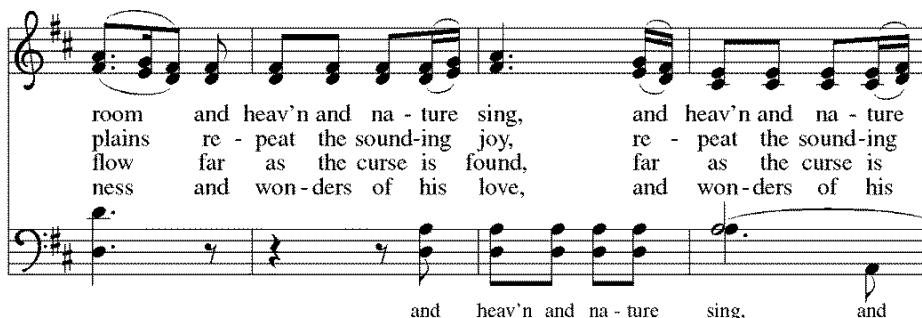
SENDING CAROL: *Joy to the World* All Sing



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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and



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.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

THE SENDING

P Glory to God in the highest!

C **Peace to God's people on earth!**

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* All Sing

We Wish You a Merry Christmas,

We Wish You a Merry Christmas,

We Wish You a Merry Christmas,

And a Happy New Year!

**Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Repeat Refrain

Special Thanks to All our Church Musicians:

Church Choir

Chamber Choir

Handbell Choir

Soloists:

Cheryl Bansen

Tim Wilson

Greg Byrum

Jo Ann de la Vega

Welcome Christmas friends! Jesus is born this day. May He be born again in your hearts this night. We especially welcome guests of Holy Comforter. **Please** fill out a card from the rack in front of you. If you do not have a Church home in the community, please consider joining Holy Comforter on Sundays.

Crucifer: Erin Cassel

Bible Bearer: Mason Morton

*Special thanks to our Lector, Brian Achor.

* The altar flowers were given by Julia Gunter in honor of Greg Cline and all church musicians for their time, talent and dedication to our music ministry and given by Shelia Kelly to honor and glorify Christ Jesus' birth.

NOTE: All classes and music activities resume January 7th

Thank You to Everyone who made this a Wonderful Advent & Christmas Season!



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2023



TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

John & Leslie Crist

IN HONOR OF:

Shirley Causby in honor of Greg Cline
Micah Kearney in honor of Saints of Holy Comforter
Julia Gunter in honor of The Altar Guild
Greg Cline in honor of Shirley Causby
Greg Cline in honor of Faye and Warren Heller
John & Leslie Crist in honor of our grandchildren: Wyatt & Brooklyn Sutzenfield, Max & Oliva
McCotter, Patrick & Jacob Crist
Carole Jolley in honor of Pastor Micah, Jenn and boys
Leigh & Shari Leverenz in honor of Emmaleigh and Jackson Bears
Mark & Anne Reese in honor of Barbara Reese, Sarah Reese and Caitlan and Andrew Killian.
Ashley Hyman in honor of the Hyman Family
Mark & Rebecca Yount in honor of Luke & Alec Via

IN MEMORY OF:

Donna Bean in memory of Faye H. Bean
Jim and Jan Buel in memory of Bob Haubenreich
Jim, Jan, Alex and Garrett Buell in memory of Carmen Buell
Shirley Causby in memory of Tommy Causby
Dr. & Mrs. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Raul E. de la Vega
Dr. & Mrs. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. William Kannapel
Carole Jolley in memory of her parents, PG & Sybil Jolley
Shelia and Tim Kelly in memory of Robert and Mary Kelly
Shelia and Tim Kelly in memory of Kenny and Alma Hedrick
Debbie Mendez in memory of Maria and Andres Mendez, Sr.
Debbie Mendez in memory of Alice and Mark Lyerly
Debbie Mendez in memory of Ruth Lyerly
Mark & Ann Reese in memory of Jim Reese and Shirley and Jim Robertson
Mark & Rebecca Yount in memory of Heather Yount
Mark & Rebecca Yount in memory of Paul and Judy Outlaw and John and Myra Yount
Sarah Monahan Moler in memory of James F Melton III
Greg Byrum in memory of Mr. Olin S Byrum Jr.
Greg Byrum in memory of Mrs. Amy Byrum McKay
Susan and Don Nelson in loving memory of our son, Charles Grafton and our daughter, Adrielle Goodwin.

If we have unintentionally made any errors or failed to include a mention, please contact the church office. Thank you!