

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church – Minneapolis, MN
Service of Word and Sacrament

December 25, 2022
9:30 a.m.
The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day

GATHERING

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

P – Pastor
A – Asst. Minister
L – Lector
C – Congregation

✝ **Please stand as you are able.**

PRELUDE – *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Setting, Raymond Haan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✝ **CHRISTMAS CALL TO WORSHIP**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Let us go, in heart and mind,
to see what has come to pass.

P Let us go with the shepherds:

C Let us go to find the Savior!

P Let us go with the wise ones:

C Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

P Let us go with the poor and humble:

C Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

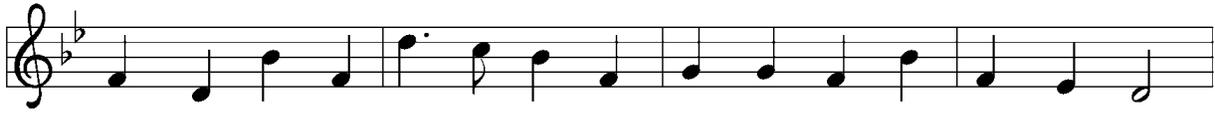
P Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

P Come, let us worship;
come, let us adore him:

C Christ the Lord!

† GATHERING CAROL

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

† GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **And also with you.**

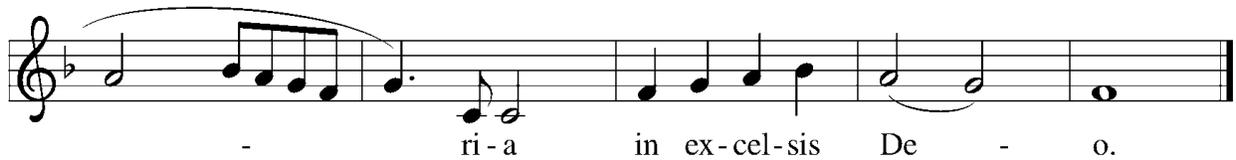
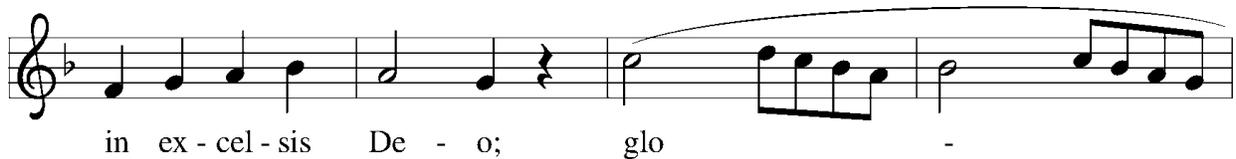
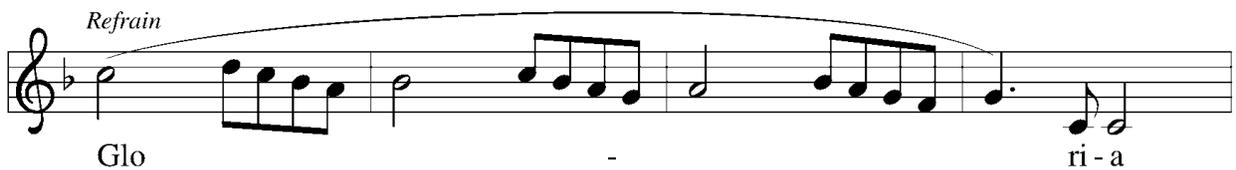
✠ CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6–12

L A reading from Isaiah:

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
⁷and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
⁹but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
“See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

¹²They shall be called, “The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD”;
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.”

L Word of God. Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4–7

L A reading from Titus

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

✠ ACCLAMATION



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

✠ GOSPEL: Luke 2:8–20

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand.

✠ HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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!



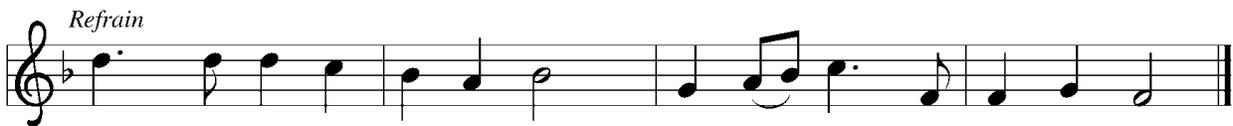
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence is kept.

A The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled, especially those who each of our congregations hold dear. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C **Amen.**

✠ PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, such as
"Peace be with you" or similar words.*

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

During the offertory, please bring your offering forward and place it in the plate provided, being careful to maintain safe distance from one another.

OFFERTORY SOLO

Gesu Bambino (The Infant Jesus)

Pietro Yon

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

Please stand.

✠ GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

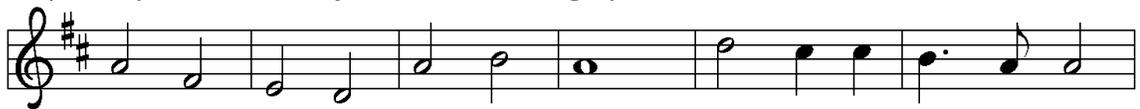
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

✠ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night before he died,
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.

Those at home, please feel free to unmute yourself for the Lord's Prayer.

✠ LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one, though in many places, we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

C **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

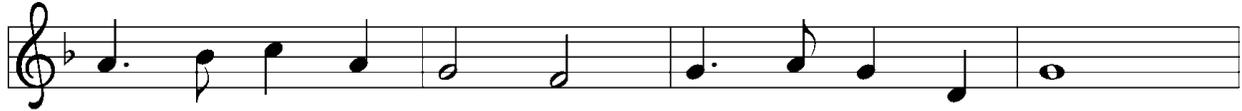
Those at home, please mute yourself again.

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION CAROL



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Please stand.

✠ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you, now and forever.
C Amen.

✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

SENDING

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

✠ **FINAL BLESSING**

P God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ **SENDING CAROL**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

✠ **DISMISSAL**

A Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C Thanks be to God.

You are invited to remain and enjoy the postlude.

POSTLUDE – *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Setting, Wilbur Held

Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com.
Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License number SAS003346.

**Please dispose of your Holy Communion cups in the trash can in the Narthex.
Do not leave them on the floor by your pew. Thank you.**

Participants in Today's Worship:

Presiding Minister & Preacher: Pastor Steve Olson
Minister of Worship & Music: Deacon Phil Holzman
Assisting Minister: Nicholas Tangen
Song Leader/Soloist: Carlotta Rosebrock
Lector: Mary Ann Eide
Children's Time: Mary Ann Eide
Zoom Meeting Host: Hannah Rosebrock
Sound Technician: Shirley Fors

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Everyone is invited to remain after worship and head downstairs to our Fellowship Hall for a time for fellowship – and coffee and treats. Merry Christmas, everyone!

Holiday Worship Schedule – New Year's Day

A reminder that next Sunday our joint worship with Gustavus Adolphus and Mt. Carmel Churches will be held AT MT. CARMEL at 9:30 a.m.



Poinsettia Memorial Garden



We thank the following people who have donated toward the purchase of poinsettias for the beautification of the sanctuary for Christmas.



In Memory of

Bernie & Friendly Olsen (parents);
Emma Swensk (grandmother)
Cecil Fors
Sundra Arwidson
Elizabeth & Joseph Huble
Larry Knoebel
Corky and Family Members
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones

Given By

Pam Evangelist
Shirley Fors
Phil Holzman
Edward & Gayle Huble
Roberta Knoebel and Family
Carol LaBelle
Daryl & Bonnie Mattson
Darlene McQuarrie
Dave & Kathy Schuette