

LUTHERAN CHAPEL  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24, 2022



*Jesus is born of the Virgin and placed in a manger  
and praised by angels and shepherds.  
Prophecy is fulfilled. Faithful humility is for all to see.*

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL  
DECEMBER 24, 2022  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

***BOLD** indicates congregational responses.  
\* Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

**GATHER**

**PRELUDE**

Handbell Choir	<i>“Christmas Bell Fanfare”</i>	Douglas E. Wagner
Chancel Choir	<i>“Journey to Bethlehem”</i>	Robert F. Burke, age 11
Amy & Josh Carpenter	<i>“Lo How a Rose”</i>	arr. Teresa Jennings
Jeanette Myers & Lisa Burch	<i>“What Child is This”</i>	arr. Stephen Bulla
Instrument Ensemble	<i>“Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn”</i>	Unitas Fratrum
	<i>“I Saw Three Ships”</i>	arr. Luther Henderson
	<i>“Hodie Christus Natus Est”</i>	arr. S. Drummond Wolff
Handbell Choir	<i>“Away in a Manger”</i>	arr. Karen Thompson
Lisa Burch & Kathie Riebe	<i>“Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head”</i>	John Innes
Kathie Riebe	<i>“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”</i>	David Cherwien

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

**C: Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*1 John 1:8-9*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

*Exodus 20:1-17*

- 1. You shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**

4. **Honor your father and mother.**
5. **You shall not murder.**
6. **You shall not commit adultery.**
7. **You shall not steal.**
8. **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
9. **You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
10. **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).**

#### **THE GREAT COMMANDMENT**

*Mark 12:28-31*

**You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: 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 . . . 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 the 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!

## \*THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

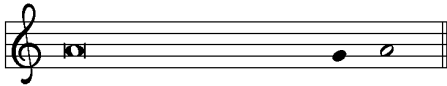
*2 Corinthians 13:13*

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.

## \*THE KYRIE

*Mark 10:47*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



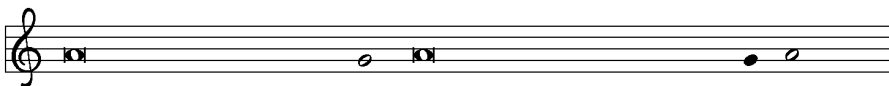
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



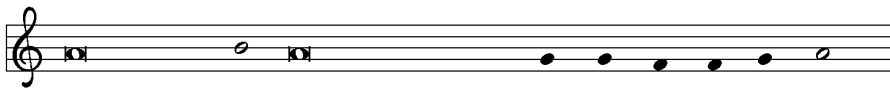
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

## \*THIS IS THE FEAST

*Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9*

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*(In Unison)*

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**C:** 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. Amen.

## WORD

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

*"We Lift the Light of Hope"*

## READING

Baker Sanders

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus  
and rejoice in His coming to us,  
we light the Christ candle.

Jesus Christ is our hope.  
He is our peace.

Jesus Christ is our joy.  
He is love--  
pure, holy, undying love.

Whoever believes in Him will never perish  
but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

## We Lift the Light of Hope

*Please sing as directed*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'We lift the light of Christ-mas day And greet e - ter - nal life. Now hope and peace and joy\_\_ and love Are born in Je - sus\_\_ Christ. Now hope and peace and joy and love Are born in Je - sus Christ.' The score includes various musical notations such as rests, eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and full notes, with some notes beamed together. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

We lift the light of Christ-mas day And greet e - ter - nal life. Now

5 hope and peace and joy\_\_ and love Are born in Je - sus\_\_ Christ. Now

10 hope and peace and joy and love Are born in Je - sus Christ.

Words: Ken Bible  
Music: Oliver Holden

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CCLI Song #4465083

CORONATION  
C.M.



## FIRST LESSON

## ISAIAH 9:2-7

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Congregational Refrain**

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**Refrain**

Sing to our God a joyful song! Everyone bless God's name.

Tell of God's wondrous deeds; sing to all the world.

**Refrain**

Heaven be glad and earth rejoice, let every ocean roar!

Every forest, every tree joins the song of joy!

**Refrain**

Cry out with joy for God has come, come to rule the earth.

God will rule the world with love, righteousness and truth.

**Refrain****SECOND LESSON****TITUS 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

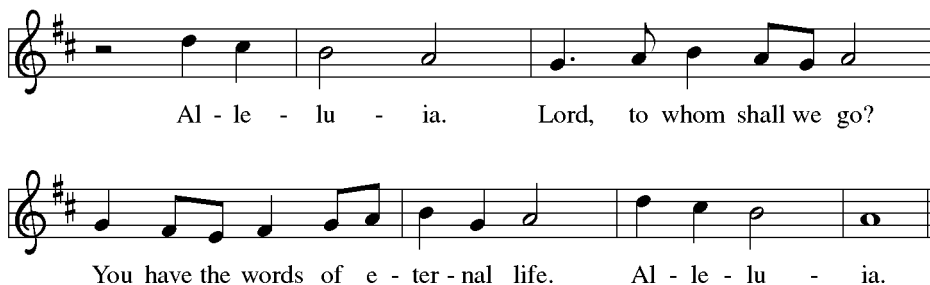
<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

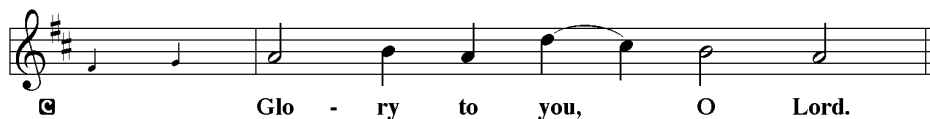


## \*GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-20

*Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.*

Response after the announcement:



*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

<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.

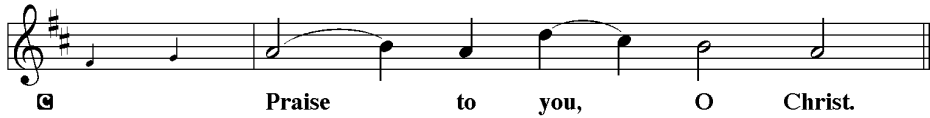
<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## MESSAGE

*"The Birth of Christ"*

Song of Angels

On the Manger

***The Law*** is an aspect of God's Word that shows sin and brokenness: I do not accept this love. How can the Creator of all that is love me? Isn't love just a human emotion? How can love be a metaphysical force? How can any baby born truly save?

***The Gospel*** is an aspect of God's Word that comforts and saves in Christ: Jesus the Christ is born for us. All who trust in the Christ Child will receive grace upon grace now and forever.

***So What?*** Remember how God chooses to be known in the humble ones and humble things of this world. Choose to seek humility.





1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and  
 2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to  
 3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and  
 4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are  
 us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that  
 small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is  
 death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
 grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."  
 yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.  
 ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: WARUM SOLLT ICH, Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–1676

## **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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.**

**I 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. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond* **Hear our prayers.**

*Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.*

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*Matthew 5:22-24: Ephesians 4:1-3*

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

*2 Corinthians 13:11*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

# ANTHEM

*“Rejoice and Be Merry”*

# CHANCEL CHOIR

arr. Michael Larkin

## THE MEAL

### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136*

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

### \*PREFACE FOR THE DAY AND THE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*

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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

## **\*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, 1 Corinthians 11*

P: 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.

## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

P: 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.**

## **\*LAMB OF GOD**

*John 1:29*

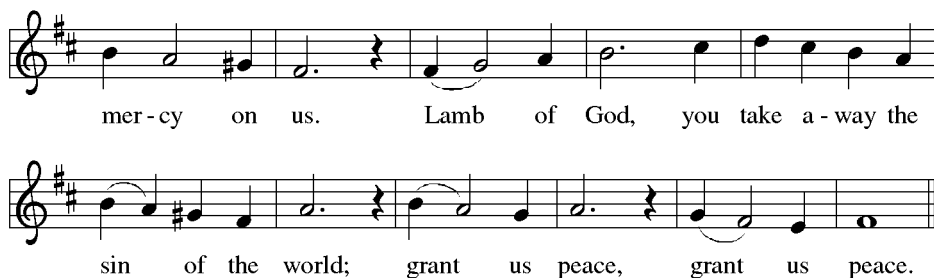


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have





### **\*DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion. Here we receive forgiveness, the gift of abiding in Jesus, the remembrance of His sacrificial love for us on the Cross, and the promise of eternal life (Luke 24:13-35, John 6:22-59, 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Please request grape juice or gluten free bread if needed. Taste and see the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)!*

*Please take your communion cup as you leave and discard in trashcan.*

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

Handbell Choir	<i>"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"</i>	arr. Frances L. Callahan
Instrument Ensemble	<i>"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"</i>	Richard Willis
	<i>"An Early English Christmas"</i>	arr. John O'Reilly
Kathie Riebe	<i>"Sing We Now of Christmas"</i>	arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Congregational Hymn	<i>"O Little Town of Bethlehem"</i>	ELW #279
Congregational Hymn	<i>"What Child Is This"</i>	ELW #296

### **SENDING**


### **\*THE BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## \*SONG OF SIMEON

Luke 2:29-32



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## \*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: 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.

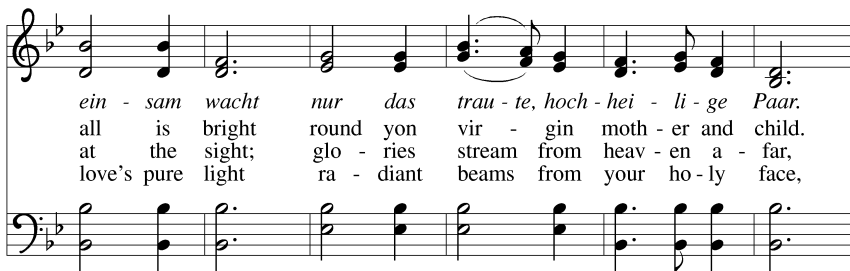
**C: Amen.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

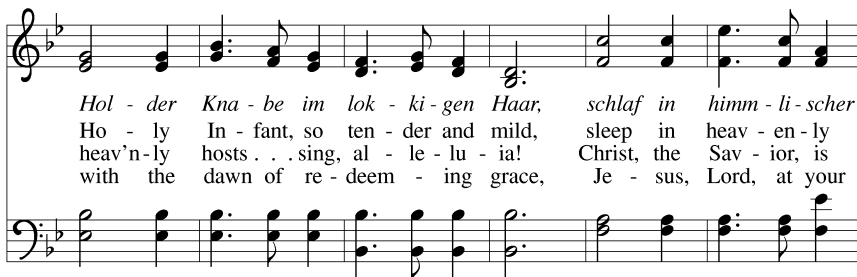
*The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. **The lighted candle is never tilted.***



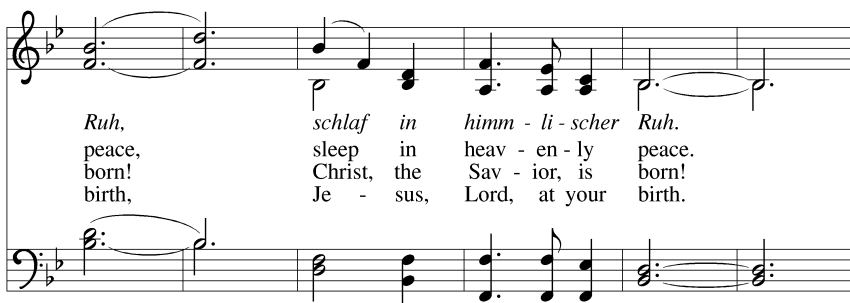
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



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,



Hol - der 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

*The candles are extinguished.*



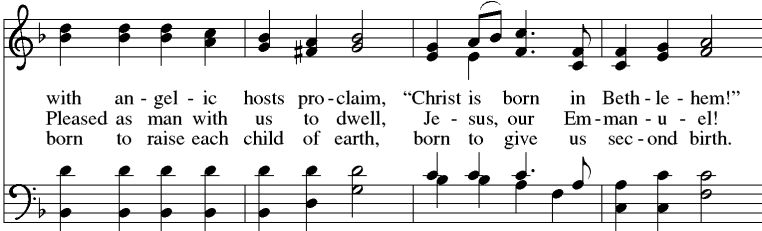
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



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!"

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

*Poinsettias may be picked up following this evening's worship service.*



## THOSE SERVING DURING THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

Ministers.....	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor.....	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant .....	Kim Rundzieher
Choir Director .....	Kathie Riebe
Organist .....	Lisa Burch
Assistant Minister.....	Norman Overcash
Lector .....	Jenny Williamson
Acolyte .....	Elena Hoffman
Crucifer.....	Ethan Lineberger
Banner Bearer.....	Harry Swindler
Bible Bearer.....	Will Clark
Torch Bearers .....	Noah Comer & Mary Scott Robinson
Head Ushers .....	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR .....	Gene Weaver

## **Christmas Season Worship Schedule**

### **Sunday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day**

*10:00am Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols*

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Luke 1:26-35, 38, and John 1:1-18

(NO Sunday School)

### **Sunday, January 1 ~ New Year's Day**

*10:00 Service of Epiphany Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion*

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72, Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12

(NO Sunday School)



**Lutheran Chapel**  
**702 N. New Hope Road**  
**Gastonia, NC 28054**  
**704-864-6491**  
**[lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org)**