

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



REVELATION 20:1-3, 11-15 and 21:1-8 and MATTHEW 2:13-18

"All Things New"

**ANTE COMMUNION
12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS / HOLY INNOCENTS
DECEMBER 28, 2025**

**lutheranchapelchurch.org
(704) 864-6491**

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL
SERVICE OF ANTE COMMUNION**

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

"A Tender Rose has Blossomed"

John M. Rasley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of slavery; 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.

***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, pg. 147

AM: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

***GLORY TO GOD**

Luke 2:14, John 1:29, pg. 148

AM: Glory to God in the highest; and peace to God's people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

(In Unison)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Receive into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims. By your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All who want to come forward for the Message are welcome to do so.

FIRST LESSON

JEREMIAH 31:15-17

¹⁵ Thus says the LORD:

A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD:

Keep your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
says the LORD:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;
¹⁷ there is hope for your future,

says the LORD:
your children shall come back to their own country.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148



Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*
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Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,
Who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Refrain

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;

Refrain

Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens,
old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

Refrain

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

REVELATION 20:1-3, 11-15 AND 21:1-8

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years ³ and threw him into the pit and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire, ¹⁵ and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ **And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”** ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the sexually immoral, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson from Genesis to Revelation. The + marks where we are now. Memory verse is in bold.

*Creation : Fall : Promise : Exodus : Conquest : Judges : Kings and Prophets : Exile :
Restoration : 2nd Temple : JESUS : Apostles : Last Day : +New Creation*

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

John 6:68

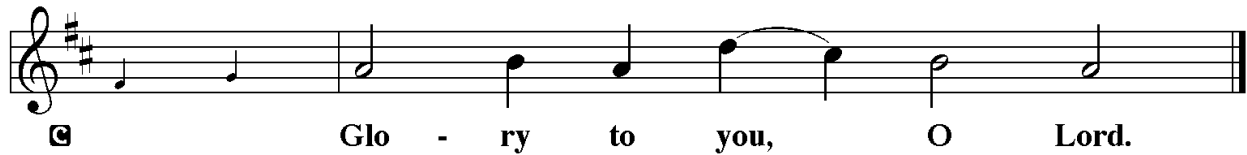
Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

***GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 2:13-18

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

Response after the announcement:



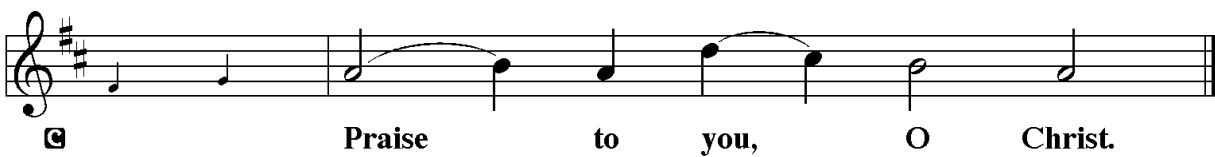
¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



The Climactic Promise of the Last Book of the Bible on the Last Sunday of 2025
On the Innocents – Collateral Damage of a Sin Sick World

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power: It looks like it all just ends – the grave, the black hole, the cosmic end. Can it be that all things will be made new in Christ? My faith is so weak.

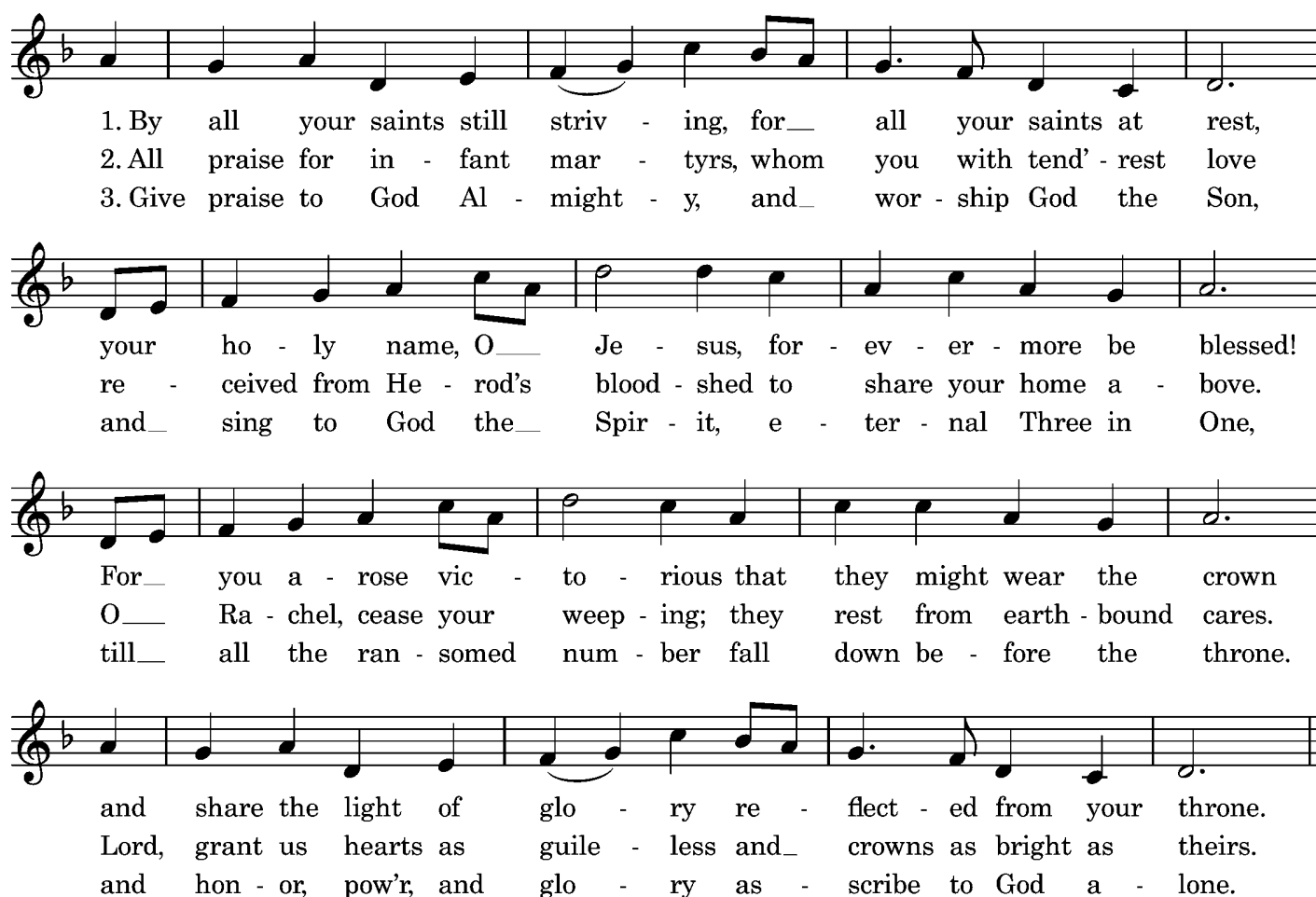
The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' ultimate saving power: Jesus, who was, who is, and who is to come, promises to make all things new – even the innocent who suffered and died in Jesus' childhood.

So What? Hope. Love. Beyond the tears and the last breath is eternity because of the promise of Jesus – rejoice now and forever!

*HYMN OF THE DAY

"By All Your Saints"

ELW #420



1. By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2. All praise for in - fant mar - tyrs, whom you with tend' - rest love
3. Give praise to God Al - mighty, and wor - ship God the Son,

your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed!
re - ceived from He - rod's blood - shed to share your home a - bove.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,

For you a - rose vic - to - rious that they might wear the crown
O Ra - chel, cease your weep - ing; they rest from earth - bound cares.
till all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne.

and share the light of glo - ry re - flect - ed from your throne.
Lord, grant us hearts as guile - less and crowns as bright as theirs.
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - scribe to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823 - 1913

Music: English folk tune

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***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.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Philippians 4:7

P: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Jubilate! Bells Are Ringing"

Ellen Foncannon

***OFFERTORY**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Psalms 51:10-1

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

***THE LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13*

AM: 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.**

SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** *"Joy to the World"* **ELW #267**

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *"On Christmas Night"* Kenneth T. Kosche

† † † † † † † †

SERVING THE CHURCH

Ministers.....	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor.....	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant.....	Susan Hibsich
Director of Music Ministries.....	Kathie Riebe
Choir Accompanist.....	Anna Gilreath
Assistant Minister.....	Jeanette Myers
Acolyte.....	Corbin Brown
Lector.....	Rob Andrews
Crucifer.....	Jordan Hoffman
Head Ushers.....	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR.....	Gene Weaver
Council Members of the Month.....	Rob Andrews and Jason Sanders

Upcoming EVENTS



GENERAL INFORMATION: If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE: This QR code goes straight to the “Easy Tithe” page on the website that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.



2025 CONTRIBUTIONS: It’s time to get your 2025 pledges up-to-date. All donations to the church must be turned in **Today** to be credited to your account for the year.

TABLE TALKS: All are invited to the Table Talk following the service on **Today**. The topic for study will be the Apostles’ Creed.

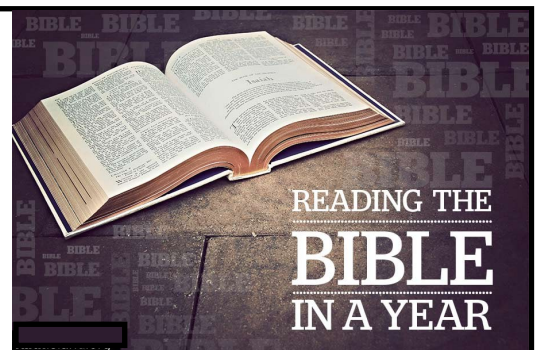
2026 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: If you’d like to sign up for a Sunday in 2026, please contact Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 or email sudalewi@gmail.com.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES: You can now pick up your 2026 offering envelopes on the table entering the preschool area. In order to reduce the number of envelopes that are not being used, you may have been assigned a new envelope number. If you are a regular attender, there should be envelopes for you this year. If you would like an envelope assigned to you please contact the church office. Also note that Benevolences has now been renamed NC Synod under the offering flap.

LOVE OFFERING FOR DECEMBER: Our December Love Offering is the ARC of Gaston County. The ARC is a non-profit organization committed to securing various opportunities for people with Developmental Disabilities. Through the ARC, clients are enabled to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work and play throughout Gaston County. Please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry.



The Bible in a Year discipline begins on January 1st! Claim all the gifts of God’s Word for your journey in 2026. The daily reading may be found in the Daily Prayer section on Sunday’s bulletins, in the Our Daily Bread Devotional or subscribe for the podcast [@odbm.org](https://twitter.com/odbm.org)



Weekly **CALENDAR**



Sunday, December 28

- 8:30 am Fellowship with coffee
- 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Study
- 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am Table Talk**
- 8:00 pm Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
- 4-6 pm Life In Christ

Monday, December 29

Tuesday, December 30

- 10:00 am Clothing Closet Workday
- 5:30 pm Chapel Ringers (S)
- 6:00 pm Basketball Pickup (Gym)

Wednesday, December 31

Office Closed

Thursday, January 1

Office Closed

Friday, January 2

Office Closed

Saturday, January 3

- 9:00 am Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, January 4

- 8:30 am Fellowship with coffee
- 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Study
- 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
- 8:00 pm Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)



DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Sunrise, noon, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1, 55:17*). *May God bless you as you turn to Him day by day.*

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 1—December 28 to January 4, 2025

12/28 Morning Reading: Revelation 19—Evening Reading: Zechariah 5, 6, 7, 8
12/29 Morning Reading: Revelation 20—Evening Reading: Zechariah 9, 10, 11, 12
12/30 Morning Reading: Revelation 21—Evening Reading: Zechariah 13, 14
12/31 Morning Reading: Revelation 22—Evening Reading: Malachi
01/01 Morning Reading: Matthew 1—Evening Reading: Genesis 1, 2, 3
01/02 Morning Reading: Matthew 2—Evening Reading: Genesis 4, 5, 6
01/03 Morning Reading: Matthew 3—Evening Reading: Genesis 7, 8, 9
01/04 Morning Reading: Matthew 4—Evening Reading: Genesis 10, 11, 12



This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that lists the commemorations and Psalms appointments for the week.

PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Margaret Berghello, Shirley Bradley, Gail Brown, Miles Carpenter, Shirley Carpenter, George Cashion, Delana Clark, Ruby Cook, Baker Hampton, Henry Hoffman, Jason Lineberger, Ann Lowe and Janie Peak.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Gage Brown, Deborah Carpenter, Zandra Chavis, Jeff Cobb, Doris Coggins, Genniser Devega, Tucker Doyne, Aishia Duncan, **for the family of Gaylord Eastwood**, Kenny Falls, Jameson Franklin, Abi Gordon, Jan Green, Jerry Green, John, Kathy Jenkins, Kirk Jordan, Debbie Kerspie, Don Kincaid, Sherry McCart, Bobby Myers, Betty Parlier, Rita Pasour, Jeff Rawls, Jeff Smith, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner and Kennedy Williams.

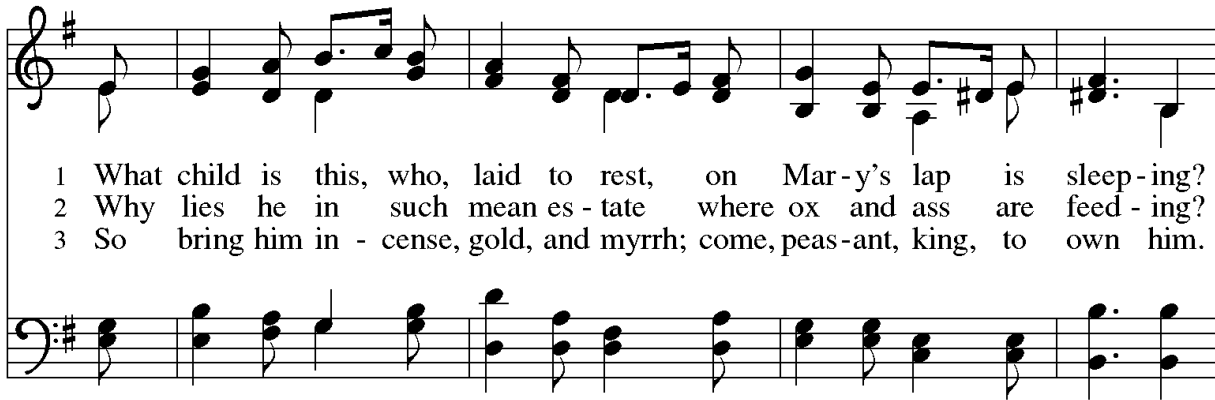
To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439)

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

Sunday, January 4 ~ Holy Communion

Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Matthew 2:1-as "Epiphany of our Lord 2026"

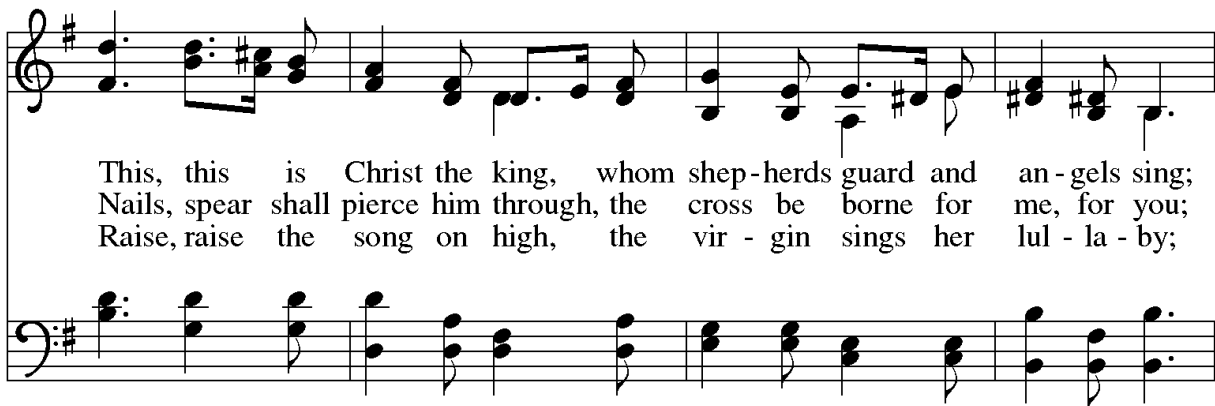
What Child Is This



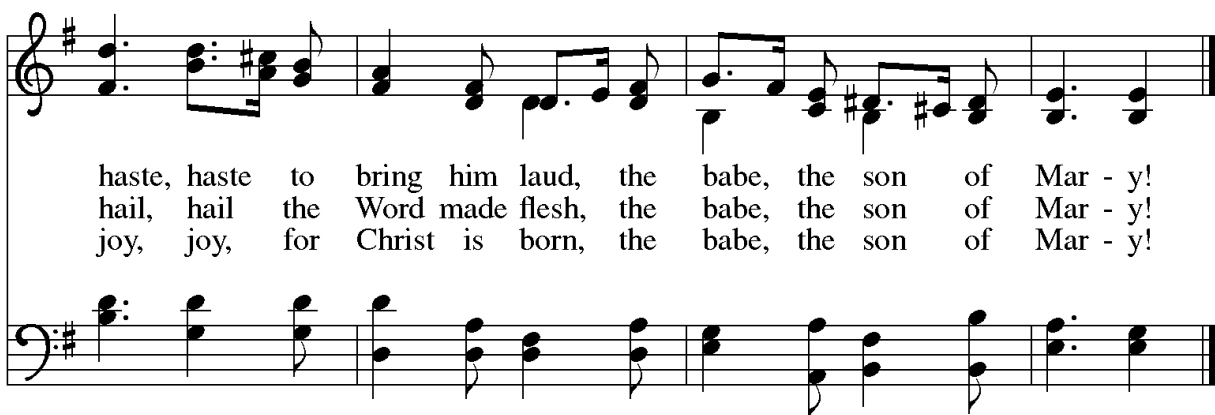
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



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;



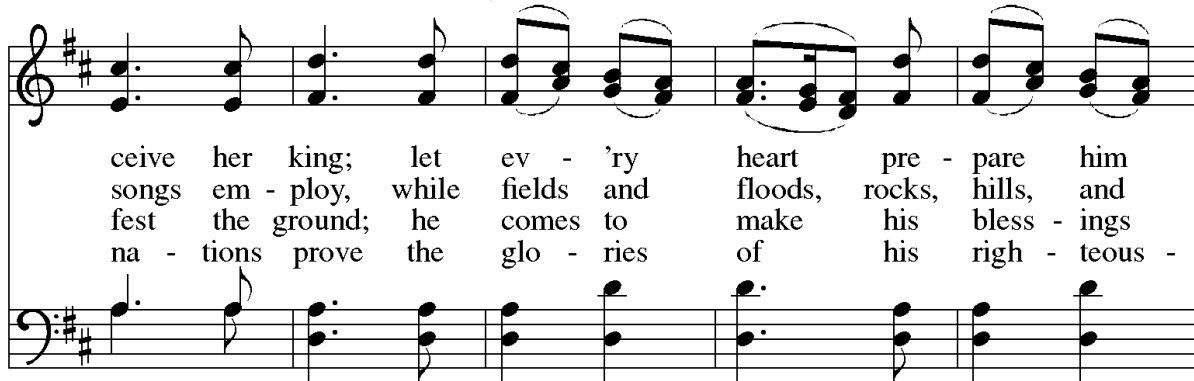
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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

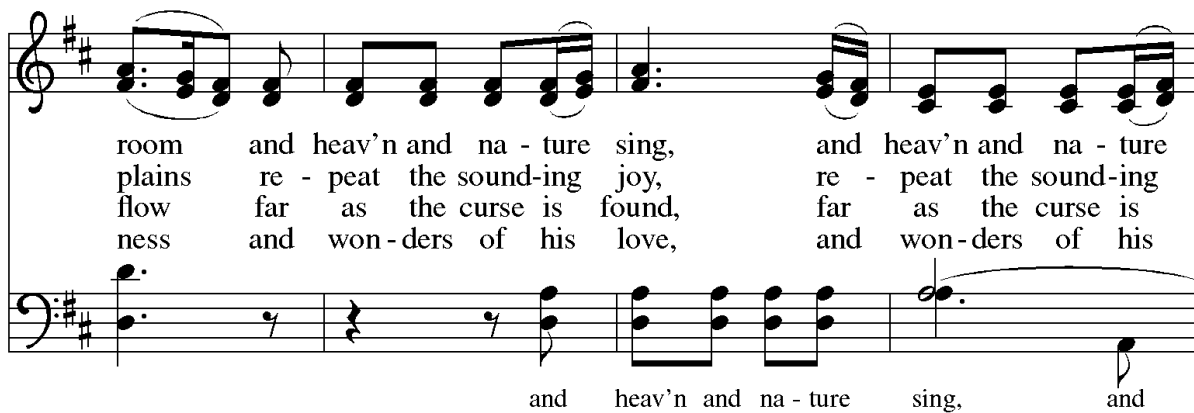
Joy to the World



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,

