CHRISTMAS EVE

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

LCMS

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY CHAPEL

Sauk Rapids, Minnesota

December 24, 2025

Good Shepherd TV: Channel 900-Apartments
Channel 64 Nursing Home and Cottages

CONTACT US

Office: 320.259.3474 Cell: 320.333.4385
325 11th Street North
Sauk Rapids, Minnesota 56379
Rev. Greg Tomhave, pastor/chaplain Jan Tomhave, organist
Church email: gregorytomhave@gsc-mn.org

About Holy Communion at Good Shepherd

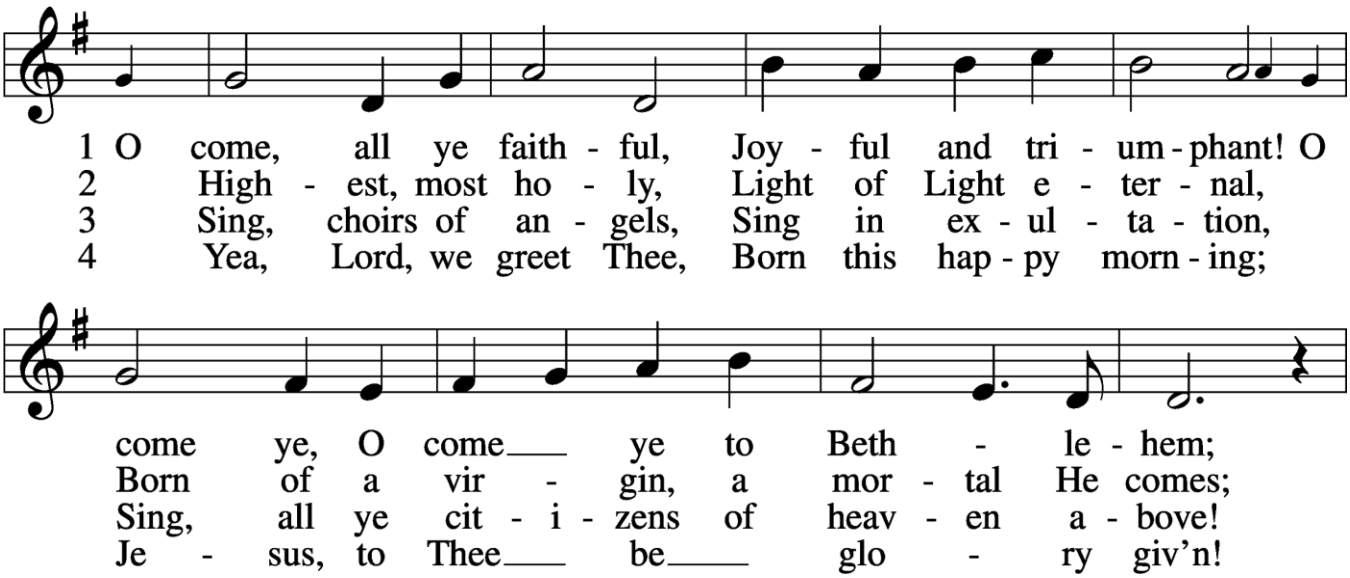
The Lord's Supper is celebrated here every Sunday and Feast Day in the belief and glad confidence that our Lord gives us as He says, not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, and share our belief in all his teaching. Partaking of the Body and Blood Christ together confesses our common faith and belief in the teachings of our Lord, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. If this is your belief, we welcome you to join us at the Lord's Table. If you would like to confess your faith with us as a member of the Congregation, please speak with the Pastor about membership.

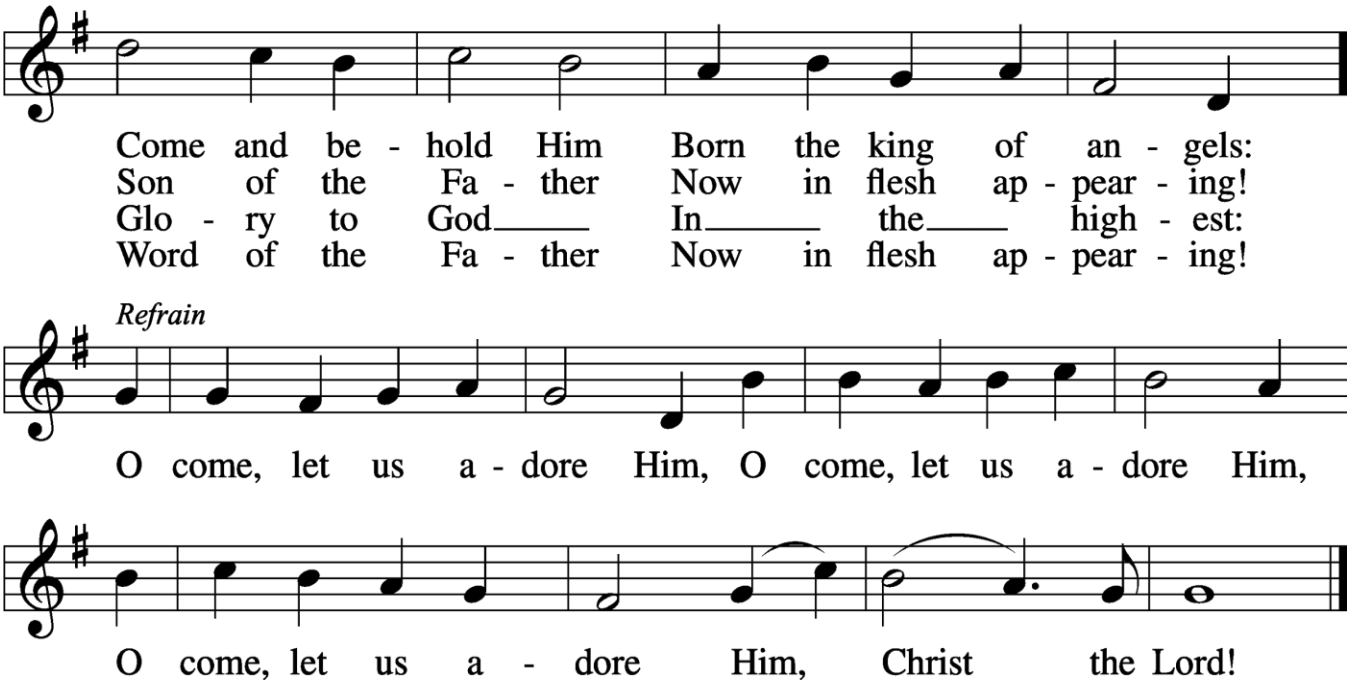
Because we are called to examine ourselves before receiving the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:28-29), we encourage you to consider the state of your soul according to the Ten Commandments. Please see the **Christian Questions and Their Answers**, *available at the entrance of the chapel. If you have questions regarding the Sacrament, please speak with the pastor. If you would prefer a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please let the Pastor know as he approaches you, or simply cross your arms over your chest.*

PASTORAL WELCOME/RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful LSB 379





Public domain

DIVINE SERVICE

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Holy Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PSALM *Psalm 98*

P Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

C The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

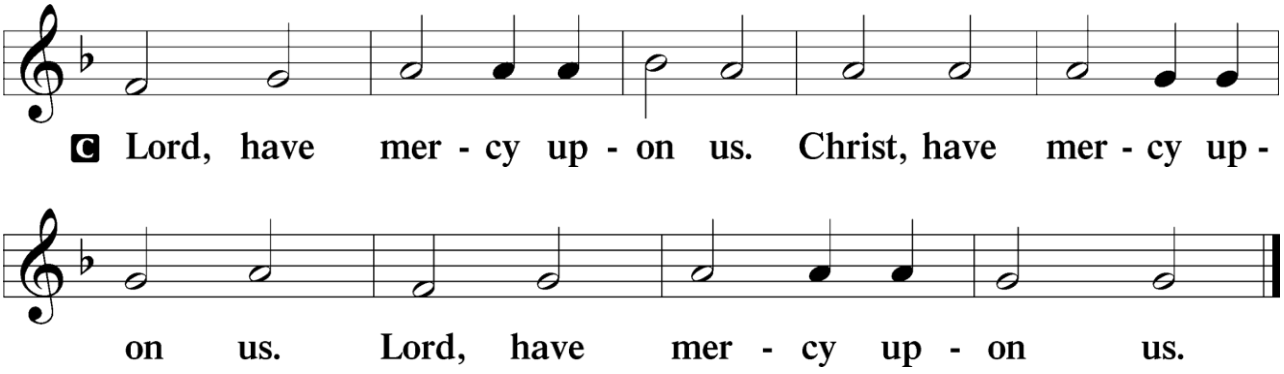
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together

before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. *(ESV)*

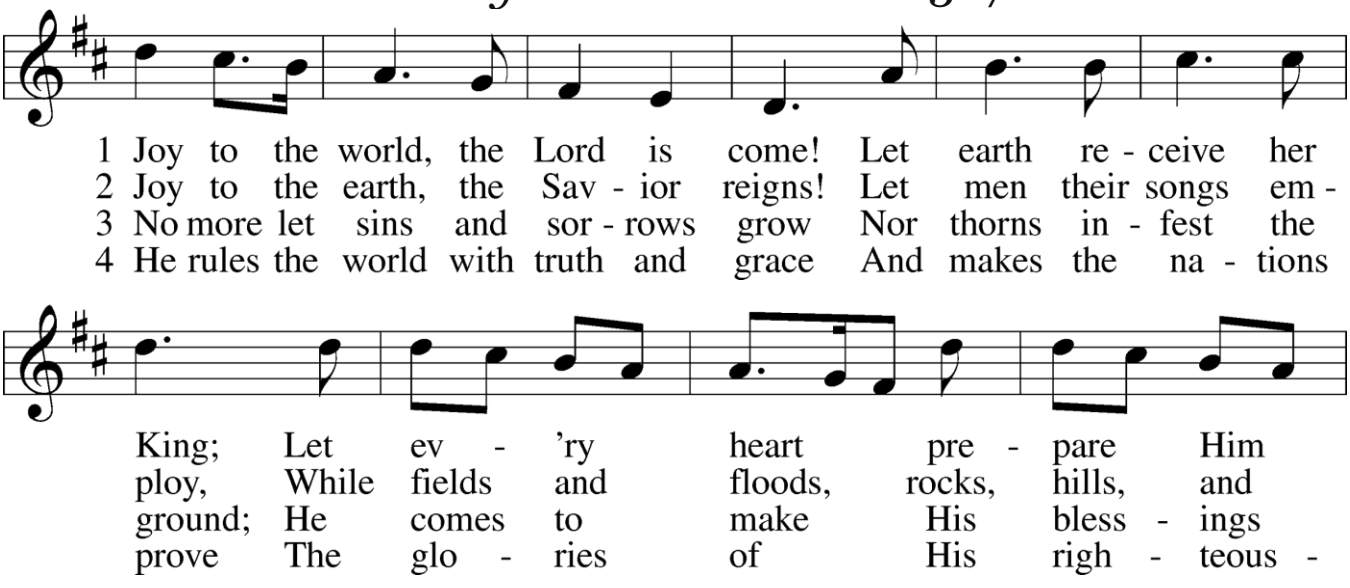
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

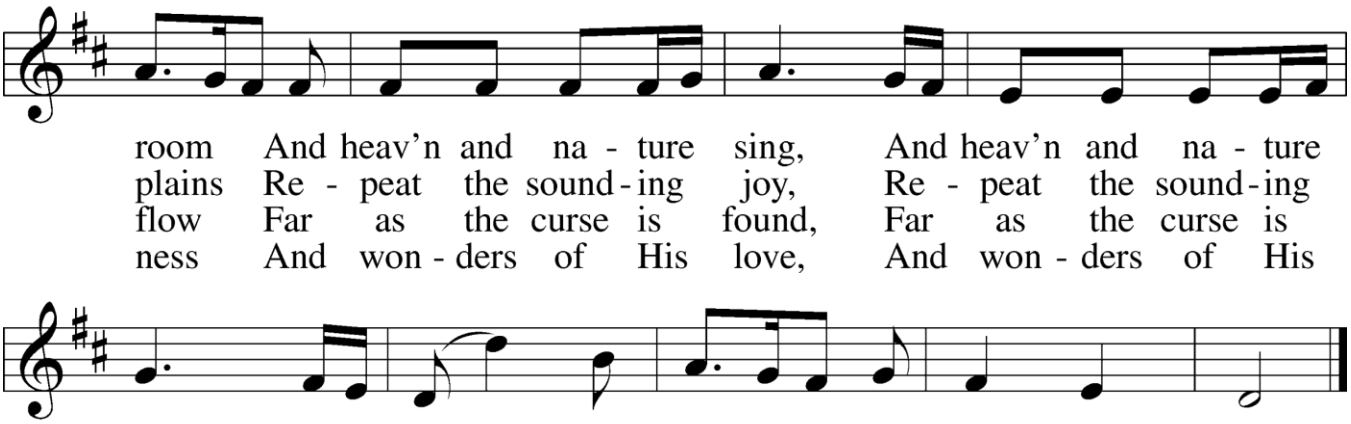
KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

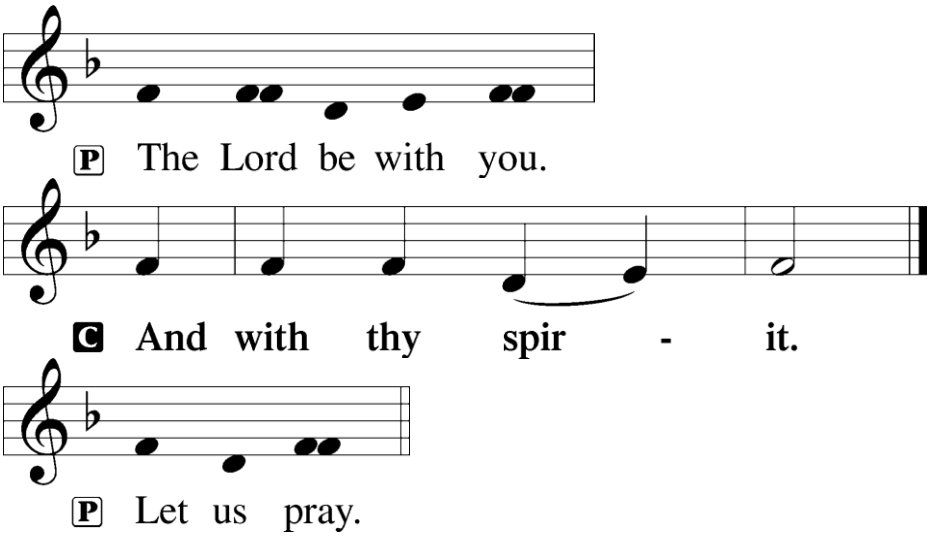
Joy to the World LSB 387





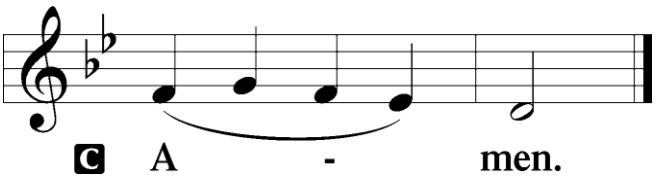
Public domain

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Pastor prays, concluding:

. . . now and forever.



OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they
rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when
they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for
his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the
day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle
tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for
the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the
government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be
called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts
will do this. *(ESV)*

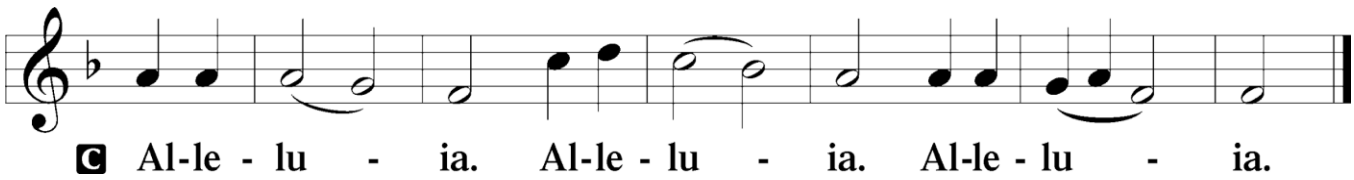
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Titus 2:11-14*

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all
people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions,
and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present
age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of
our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to
redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people
for his own possession who are zealous for good works. *(ESV)*

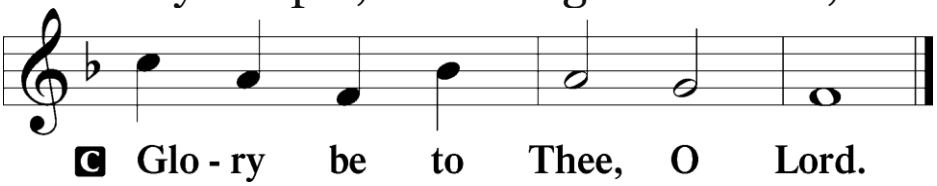
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA



THE HOLY GOSPEL *St. Luke 2:1-20*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.



1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the
world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when
Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered,
each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from
the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called
Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to
be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth! *Public domain*

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in

swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh. *Public domain*

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord
appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them,
"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be
for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you:
you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a
manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of
the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

1 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.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

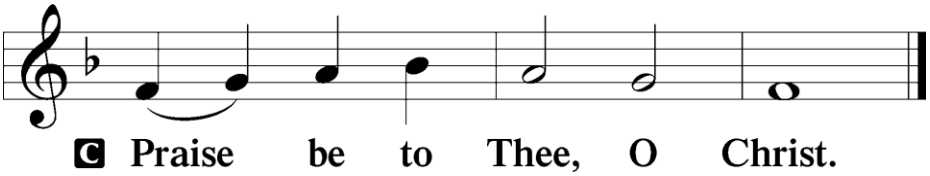
Public domain

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the
shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and
see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known
to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and
the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made
known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18
And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19
But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her
heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. *(ESV)*

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Public domain

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLES' CREED

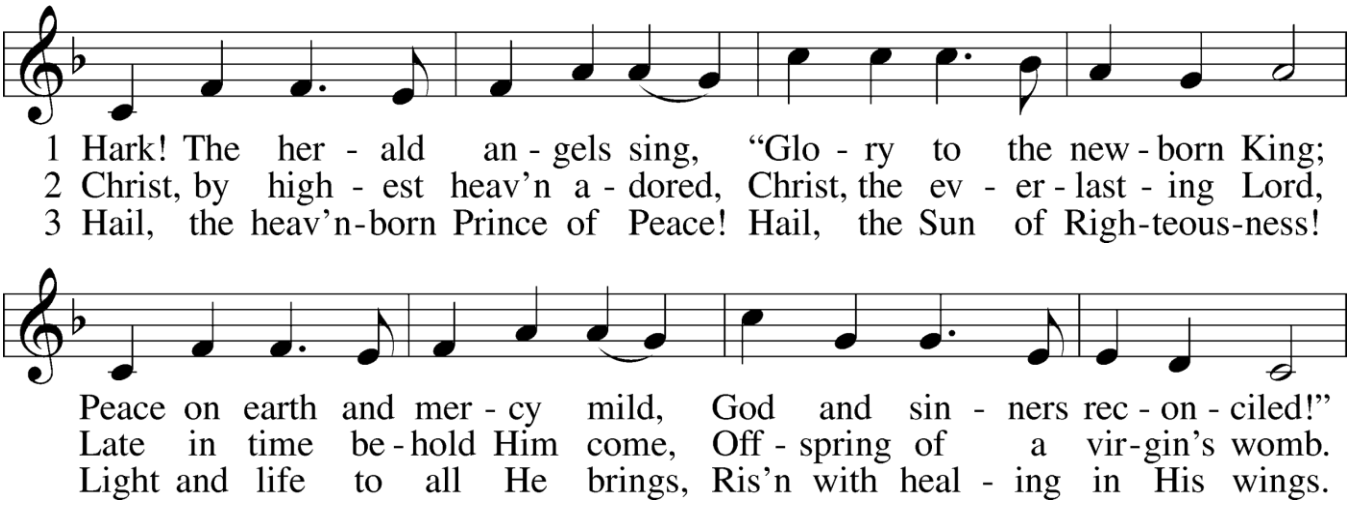
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

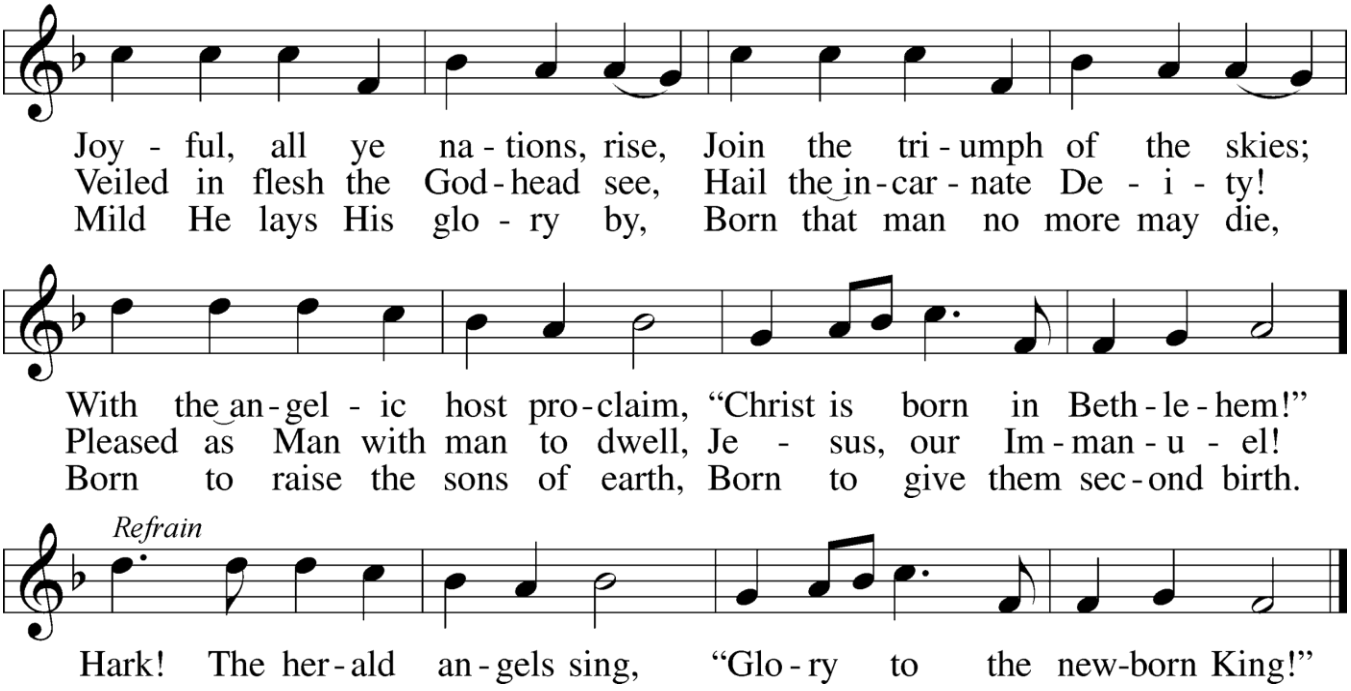
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the 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.

SERMON HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LSB 380





Public domain

SERMON "THE ANGEL'S SONG: AMAZING GLORY" LUKE 2:13-20

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Having heard the Word of God, let us now humble ourselves before the supreme Majesty of God, and make confession of our sins.

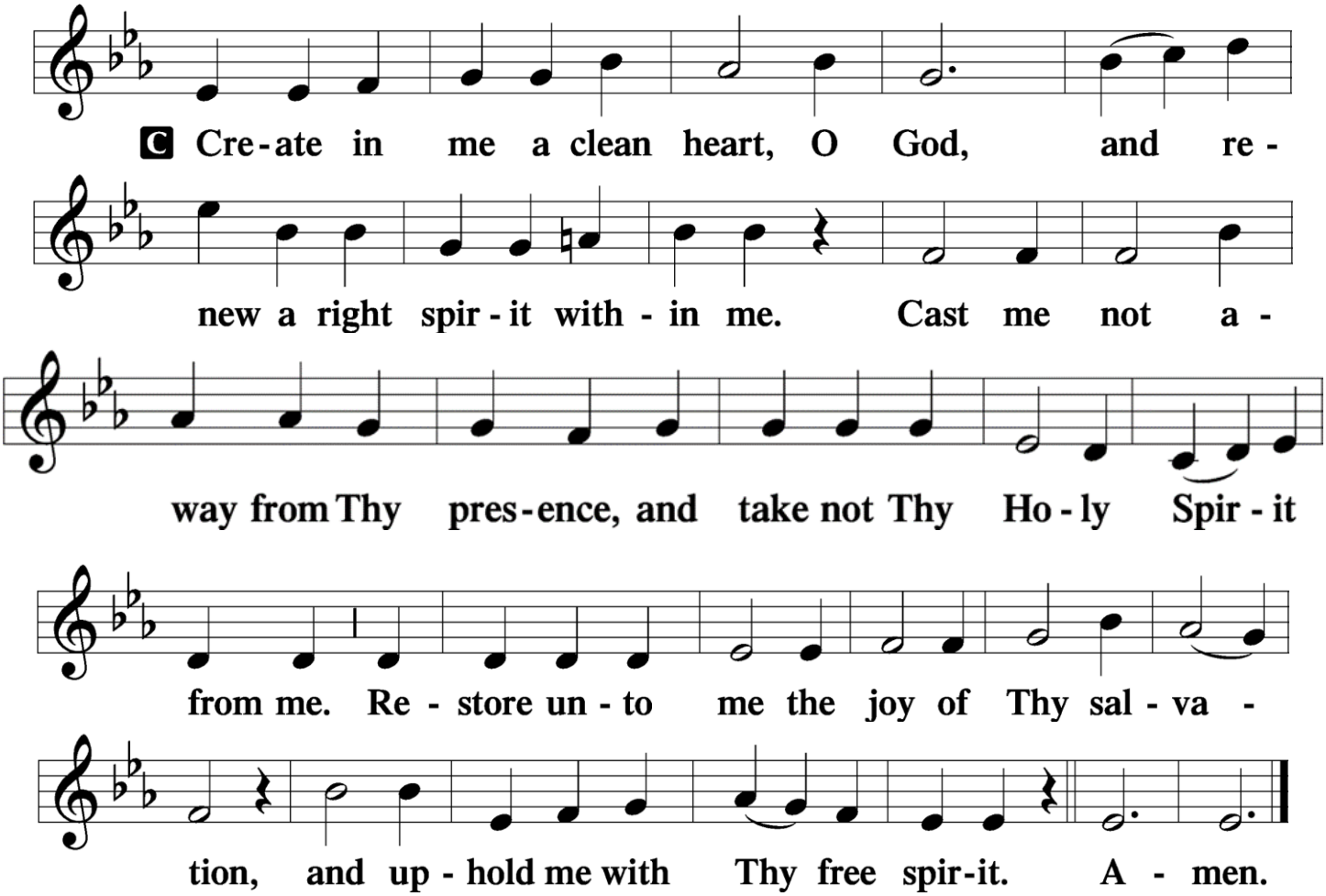
Silence for examination of conscience

O Almighty God**, merciful Father, I a poor, miserable, sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment; but I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter, sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

Is this your confession? If so, say, "**Yes**." *[Or give me some physical sign to indicate that you thus confess your sinfulness before God.]*

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you who do heartily repent of your sins, believe in Jesus Christ, and earnestly purpose by the assistance of the Holy Spirit henceforth to amend your sinful lives, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of God the + Father, God the + Son, and God the Holy + Spirit.

AMEN.

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray.

The Pastor leads the Congregation in Prayer.
The Prayer concludes:

. . . now and forever.

AMEN.

+ + + + +

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And with you, His servant.
P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.
C: With hearts uplifted
Thanks to Him we render:
With joy we come before Him,
In gratefulness implore Him,
With thankful hearts adore Him evermore!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Pastor

Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of Your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and You sent forth Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. With the Church on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Holy, holy, holy, Lord!
God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of Your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King!
Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due
Be forever, Lord to You!

THE CONSECRATION Pastor
THE LORD'S PRAYER "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,
Most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done
On earth—in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead;
From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom: unto You
In grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord let us view
Your mighty presence now.
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung
By angel hosts and men
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
Forevermore! Amen.

THE COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The Pastor will approach you in your seat to distribute Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, fold your arms across your chest as the Pastor approaches or tell him as he nears you. Upon receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, the Communicant may say:

AMEN.

PRAYERS DURING HOLY COMMUNION

To be prayed silently before receiving Communion.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, Who according to the will of the Father, and by the cooperation of the Holy Ghost, hast by Thy death given life to the world: deliver me by this Thy Most Holy Body and Blood from all mine iniquities and from every evil, and make me ever to cleave unto Thy commandments, and suffer me never to be separated from Thee, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost live and reign, ever one God, world without end. AMEN.

To be prayed silently after receiving Communion.

Grant, O Lord, that Thy Body which I have received and Thy Blood which I have drunk may adhere to my members; and grant that no stain of sin remain in me whom Thou hast refreshed with this pure and holy Sacrament; for Thou dost live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. AMEN.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve Thee to life with God that hath no end. Depart + in peace.

THE THANKSGIVING "From Heaven Above"

Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
And steadfast love fore'er endure!
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,
And we have tasted of His word.

As His own servants we depart
With His salvation in our heart.
His saving power He has made known;
His love through all the earth is shown.

Lord, let us show the world Your light;
Let us declare Your glory bright,
Proclaim Your death until You come
To take Your ransomed servants home.

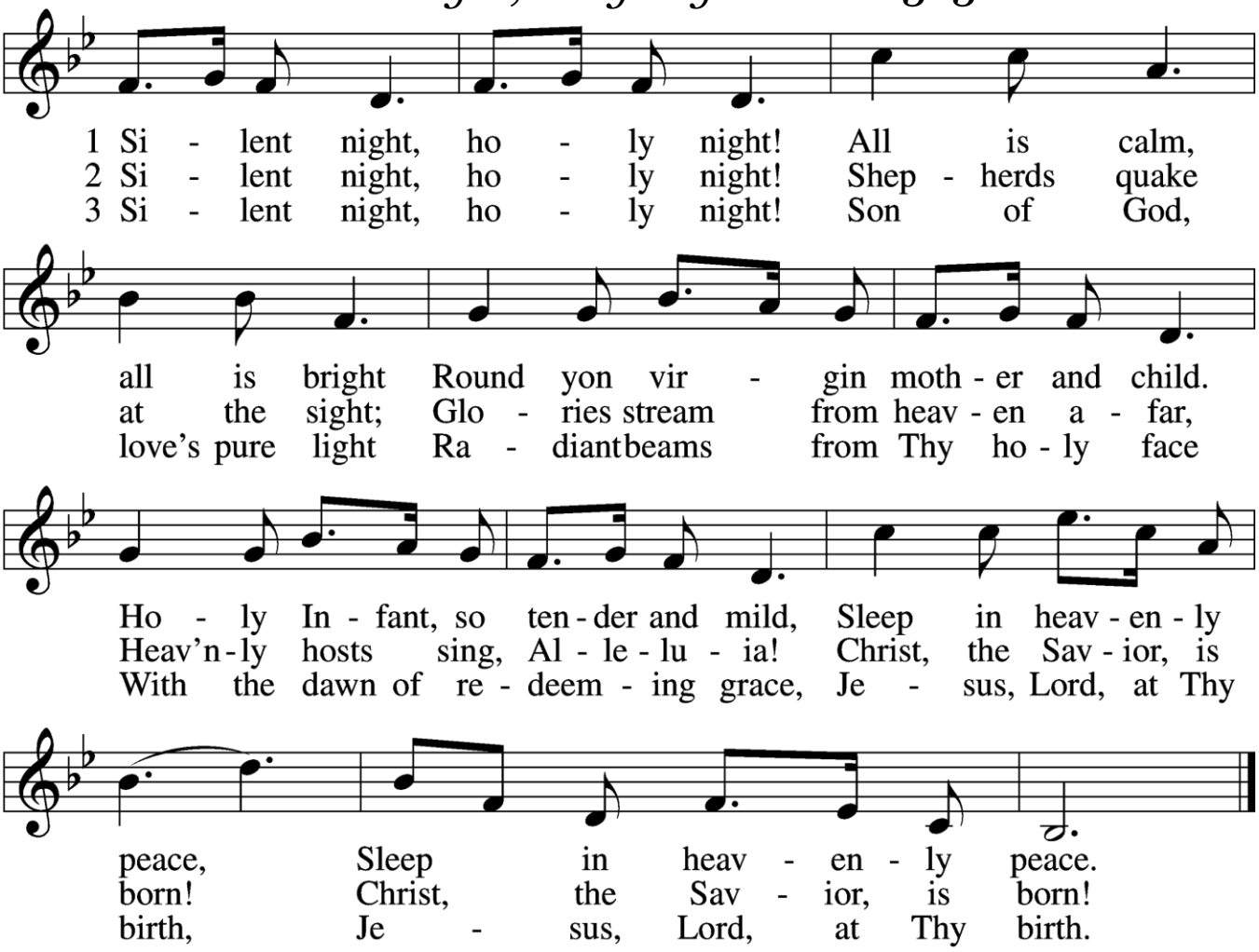
Glory to God, the Father, Son.
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
And steadfast love fore'er endure!

THE BENEDICTON "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

P: The Lord bless and keep You,
Look with love upon you,
Be gracious, and cause His face to shine with peace!

C: Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!
The Saviour close beside us,
God's love from harm to hide us,
The Spirit's pow'r to guide us evermore!

CLOSING HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night LSB 363

Public domain

Christmas Day Service is at 10:00 am tomorrow.