

Glorious Light



**Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2020
6:00 pm**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
439 E Norvell Bryant Hwy
Hernando, FL 34442
(352) 746-7161
www.gshernando.org**

Prelude

Welcome

Invocation

We worship tonight in the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

To us a child is born. To us a son is given.

And the government will be upon his shoulders, and he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We proclaim the praises of him,

Who called us out of darkness

Into his marvelous light!

Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

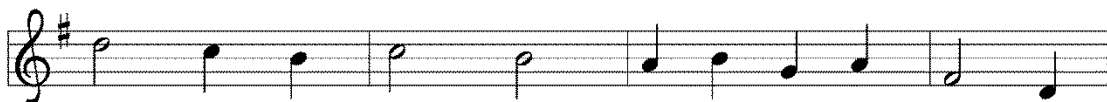
ELW 283



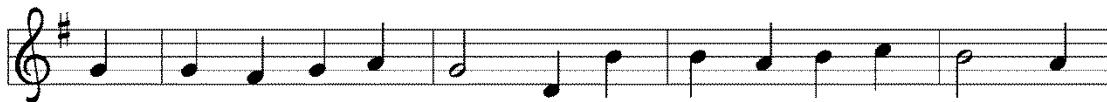
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



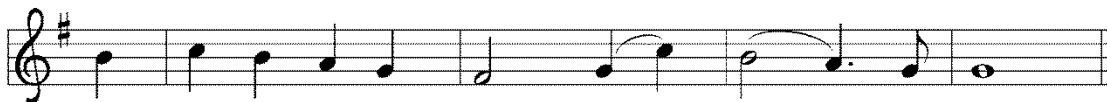
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



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

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!

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

Confession and Absolution

The Holy Spirit has shone the light of God's love into our hearts, giving us faith to believe that the darkness of our sin has indeed been dispelled by the coming of Christ in the flesh. Let us, therefore, go to God's throne of grace, confessing our sins.

Wonderful Counselor, we confess that we have listened to the advice of the dark world around us. We have let the gloom of the nations and the difficulties of our personal lives blind us to the light of your love. Forgive us. Mighty God, we confess that we have ascribed too much power to the forces of evil in this world of sin. We have failed to recognize you as glorious Lord over all. Forgive us. Everlasting Father, we confess that in our daily dilemmas we have forgotten the great forgiving love that prompted Christ to become one of us to die for us. We have not always sought to live in your light. Forgive us. Prince of Peace, we confess that we have not recognized the peace that you have brought to our discordant lives. It does not fill our hearts and minds. Forgive us.

To us a Child is born; to us God's Son is given! Christ's eternal reign has broken through to our time and place with the brilliant light of his mercy and forgiveness. All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Arise, shine, for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Prayer of the Day

O God, you make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Psalm 96 (to be read responsively)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is
therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your
truth.

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 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. 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. 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. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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.

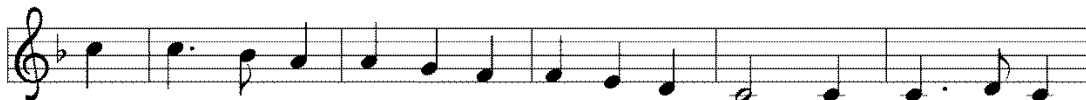
The Epistle Reading: Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

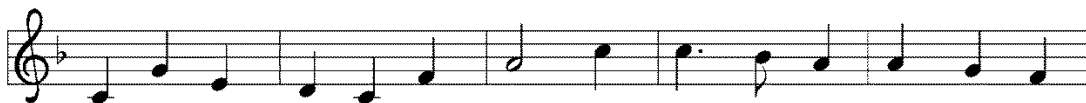
Gospel Acclamation Hymn “Away in a Manger” ELW 277

Vss. 1&2 before the Gospel Reading

Vs. 3 after the Gospel Reading



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

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.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Hymn

“Away in a Manger”

ELW 277 (verse 3)

³ Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

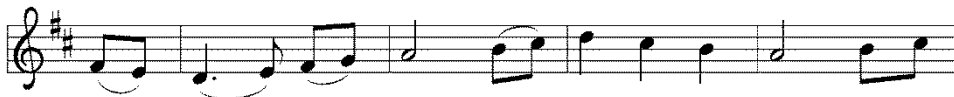
Text: North American, 19th cent.

Sermon

Hymn

"The First Noel"

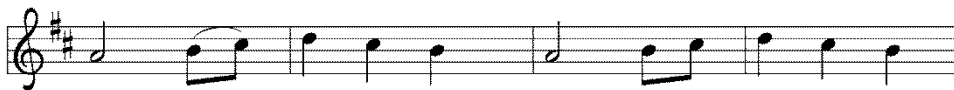
ELW 300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north-west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

Light of the world,

Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

+

Lord Jesus, you brought the light of life into the darkness of our sinful world. Shine that light on us, that we may be kept in the one true faith.

Light of the world,

Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the miracle of your birth and for the miracle of our rebirth. Assure us of your baptismal promises so that we who are born—not of blood nor the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God—may live each day as the children of the light. Light of the world,

Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Lord Jesus, the world was made through you, yet the world does not know

you. Give to us and all your people the joy and zeal of the shepherds, so that we also may make known the truth that we have been called out of darkness and into your marvelous light. Light of the world,
Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Lord Jesus, provide for those without homes or jobs or food or friends in this sacred season. Assure them that even when no one else seems to care, you will never abandon them. With the gifts you have given to us, use us to provide for everyone in need, so that through us, even those most destitute may experience your providing care. Light of the world,
Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Lord Jesus, you came to abolish death and bring life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Receive our praise and hear our prayers; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And, also with you.

Dialog

The Lord be with you.

And, also 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 God thanks and praise.

Preface

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:

Hymn

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

ELW 270



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!



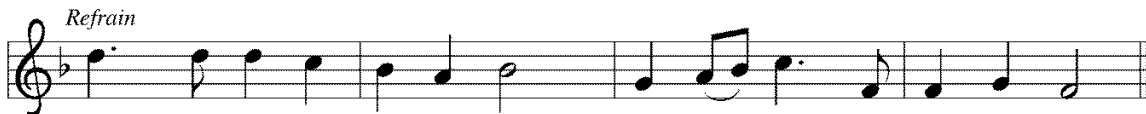
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



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.



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

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us now join together with one voice as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

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.

COMMUNION

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray,
Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for this journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.
Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

As we light our candles, we remember and worship our Savior, Jesus Christ, God's light of love. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12). "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth" (Ephesians 5:8-9). "In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Hymn

"Silent Night"

ELW 281



	<i>Stil - le</i>	<i>Nacht,</i>	<i>hei - li-ge</i>	<i>Nacht!</i>	<i>Al - les</i>	<i>schläft,</i>
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,



Hold - er 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 Benediction

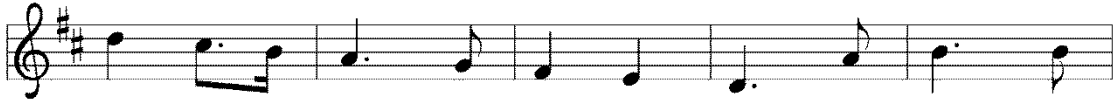
May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi and the light of Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit shine on you now and forevermore!

Amen.

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267



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



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Christ the Lord is Born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere, and have fun doing it!

Thanks be to God.



Join us in worship
Christmas morning at 10:00 a.m.
on Facebook Live and YouTube.