

Welcome in the Name of Christ
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy
Hernando, FL 34442



Christmas Day
December 25, 2020

The Reverend Dennis W. Koch, Pastor
Reverend William Barrett, Visitation Pastor
Renate Williams Slick, Director of Music, Organist & Pianist
Roger Johnson, Choir Conductor

(Congregation responses are in bold print)

INVOCATION

THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

The light shines in the darkness,

But the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

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 FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Lord Jesus, we are thankful for this opportunity to celebrate your birth. Yet we must confess that much of the newness has worn off. The angels' message has grown old in our hearts, and your birth has become more of a sentimental tradition for us to observe rather than the life-changing reality in which you invite us to participate.

Lord, we are hurting because of it. Our hearts feel empty and alone. Our spirits remain restless and unsatisfied. Our souls are weighed down by nagging guilt and haunting fears. Lord, we need the assurance of your love. We need to know your forgiveness. Savior, we need to experience

your peace, power and joy.

God has heard our confession and answers with these words: “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” Believe and receive the good news of our God’s full and forever forgiveness—flowing to you from the manger, the cross and the empty tomb. Arise, shine, for your light has come!

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

The Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, may the birth of Jesus empower us on this holy day to worship in your light, rejoice in your light and spread the light of your love throughout the world, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading, Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Epistle Reading, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the

sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

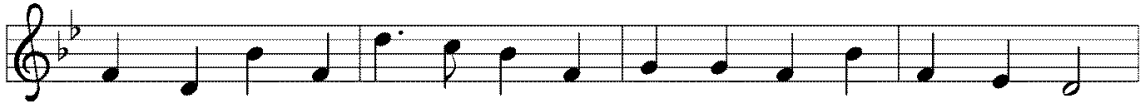
The Gospel Reading, John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light but, came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn

“Angels, From Their Realms of Glory” ELW 275

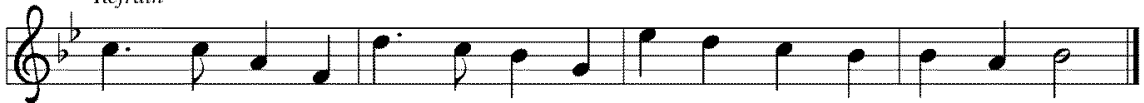


- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God,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

Homily

Hymn

“What Child Is This”

ELW 296



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.

The Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

Let the light of our Savior shine in us.

Let there be light!

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father in heaven, with great joy and humble awe we acknowledge the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh. Keep us in true faith and in fervent love for one another. Let the light of our Savior shine in us.

Let there be light!

Gracious Lord, the great mystery of the incarnation was first believed and proclaimed by common men and women—Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. Give us confidence to tell the joyful message of our Savior’s birth, his life, his death and his resurrection, that your Holy Spirit may work the miracle of faith as he wills. Let the light of our Savior shine in us.

Let there be light!

Father, you sent Jesus to serve the poor and forgotten before the wealthy and powerful. Keep us from false confidence in the earthly blessings you bestow and fill our hearts with generous love toward the destitute and the suffering, that they may see Christ’s love in us. Visit and relieve the sick and the injured. Empower them to trust in your Word. Let the light of our Savior shine in us.

Let there be light!

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musical Offering

“Born in Bethlehem”

John Gifford

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Hymn

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

ELW 270 (vs. 1)



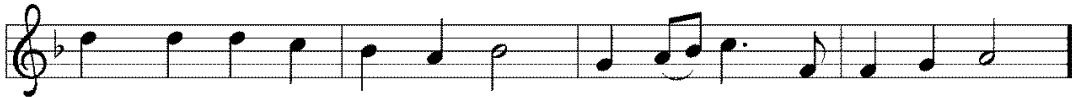
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



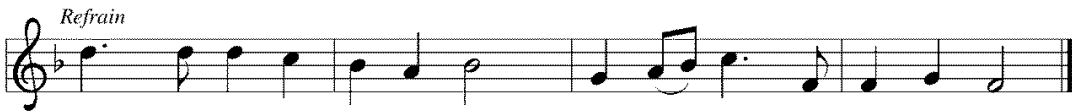
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



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 ...

... Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

SENDING

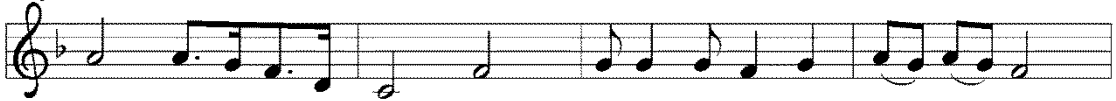
BLESSING

Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW 290

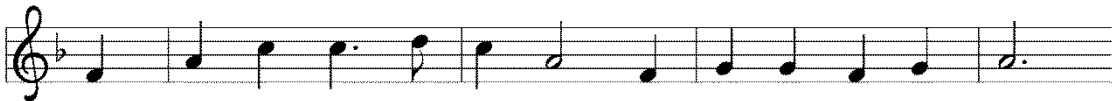
Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
and have fun doing it!

Thanks be to God.

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