

CHRISTMAS EVE

Glory, Fear, Peace, and Favor

December 24, 2025



For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people. Titus 2:11

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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AS WE GATHER

We come together to celebrate Christmas. Many times, our celebrations come with lots of music, decorations, joyous conversations, and laughter, and we cannot forget the presents under the tree and the stockings hung by the chimney with care. Yet there is a different reality we encounter tonight. We see the glory of the Lord descending to us in the Christ Child, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. And in Him, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met" tonight as we join our voices with the angels, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" (LSB 361:1; Luke 2:14).

✠ PREPARATION ✠

The Advent wreath is lit with the other candles as the hymn is sung.

HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” *LSB 361*



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:8–9*

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Leader: There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

People: And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

Leader: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

People: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

Leader: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed. He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, “As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”

People: 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.

Leader: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

KYRIE *LSB944*

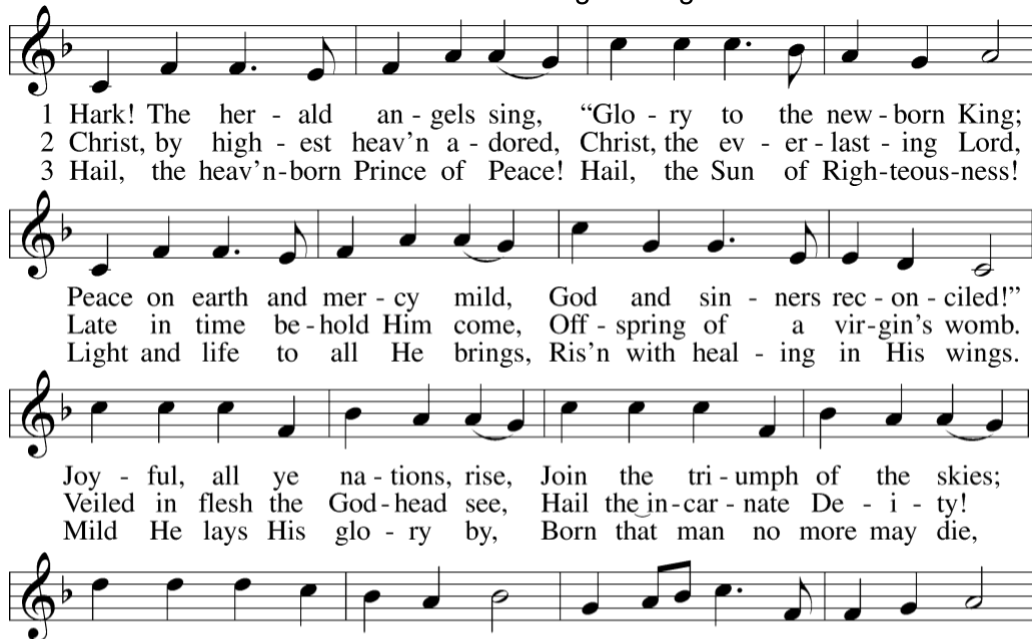


1 Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.
 2 Christ, _____ have mer - cy. Christ, _____ have mer - cy.
 3 Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Lord, _____ have mer - - - - cy.
 Christ, _____ have mer - - - - cy.
 Lord, _____ have mer - - - - cy.

Text: Traditional Tune: Russian Orthodox Text and tune: Public domain

HYMN OF PRAISE “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *LSB 380*



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 ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, “Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!”
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im-man-u - el!
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born King!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47 Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.

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 the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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 shined. 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 96*

Lector: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

HYMN “Joy to the World” St. 1: *LSB 387*

The image shows the musical notation for the first stanza of the hymn "Joy to the World". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is a simple, joyful tune. The lyrics are: "1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing."

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

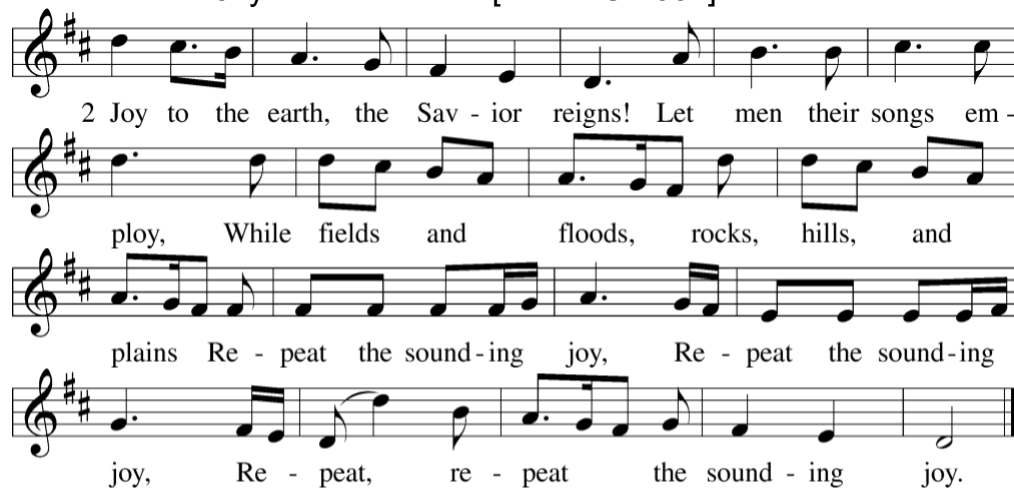
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Lector:

Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; bring an offering and come into His courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!

HYMN

“Joy to the World” [St. 2: *LSB* 387]



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

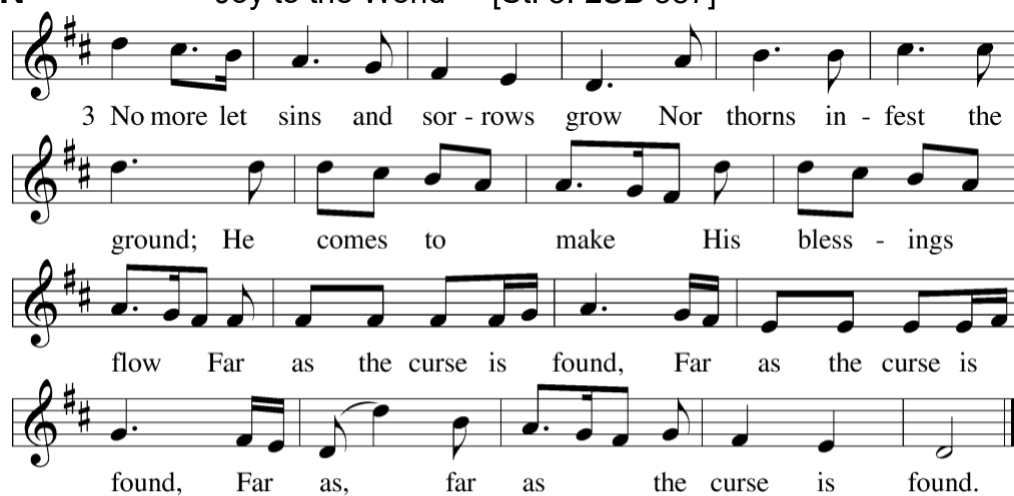
Lector:

Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established. it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

HYMN

“Joy to the World” [St. 3: *LSB* 387]



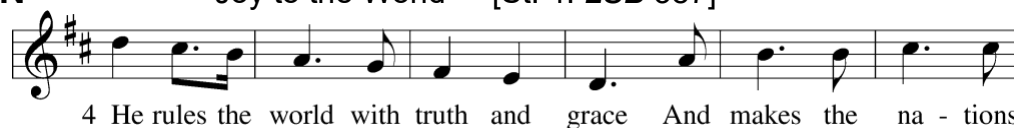
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

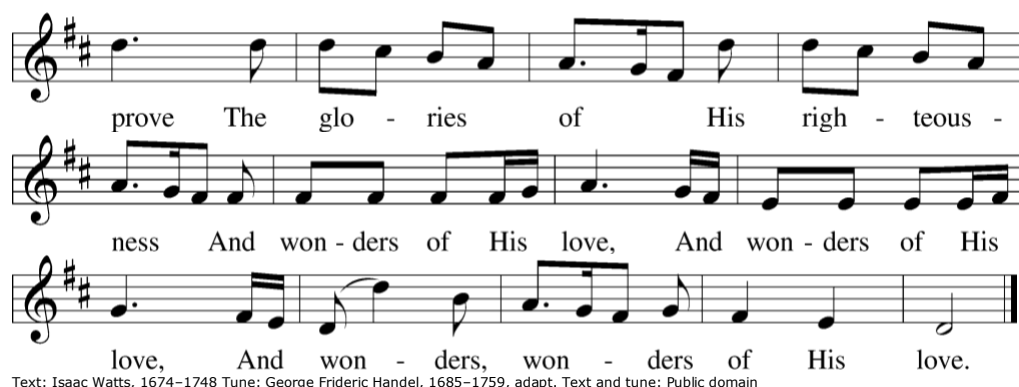
Lector:

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness.

HYMN

“Joy to the World” [St. 4: *LSB* 387]





EPISTLE *Titus 2:11–14*

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Luke 2:11*

Leader: Alleluia.

People: **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

Leader: Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:1–20*

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

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

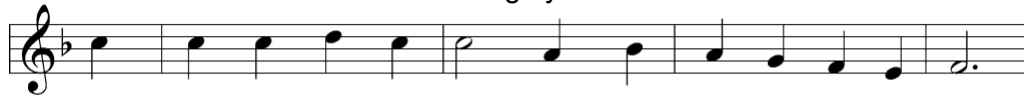
¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “A Great and Mighty Wonder” LSB 383



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: “To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!”

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

CREED *Apostle's Creed*

People: 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

People: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The glory of the Lord has come down to us in Christ. Alleluia!**

Leader: O Wonderful Counselor,

People: **hear our prayers and grant us Your peace and favor.**

Leader: O Mighty God,

People: **give us eyes to see Your glory, ears to hear Your grace, and mouths to voice Your praise.**

Leader: O Everlasting Father,

People: **You sent Your Son into this world to be born of the virgin Mary, suffer under Pontius Pilate, be crucified, die, and be buried before rising to life again on the third day to redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for Yourself a people for Your own possession. We thank and praise You for making us Your people and making Your favor shine on us.**

Leader: O Prince of Peace,

People: **we ask that You give us the peace that surpasses all understanding, that we trust that You have come into our imperfect world to bring the perfect gift of salvation, which You have freely given to us.**

Silence for personal prayer.

Leader: Into Your hands, O gracious Lord, we place our prayers and praise. We place ourselves and our loved ones into Your care, trusting in Your mercy and coming to You with confidence, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933 Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald Text and tune: Public domain

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

People: 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.

CLOSING SENTENCES

Luke 2:17

Leader: Like the shepherds who were greeted by the angels, God has revealed the glory of the Lord to us.

People: And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Before the singing of this hymn, the Christ candle will be used to light the candle of the first person in each row. Please pass the flame on to your neighbor, tipping only the unlighted candle into the flame of the lighted one. Afterwards, please extinguish your candle promptly and deposit it in the box near the exit.

HYMN

"Silent Night" LSB 363

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,
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 Thy ho - ly face
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 Thy
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863 Text and tune: Public domain



Merry Christmas to you and all the family of Christ