

Christmas Eve 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church, Beaufort SC

www.StJohnsBeaufort.org



@INKYFERTSTUDIO

GLORIA IN
EXCELSIS DEO

Welcome!

Out of a broken and divided world, all are welcomed into the whole body of Jesus Christ at St. John's. We trust in a God who loves all people, no matter their economic status, age, marital status, ethnicity, race, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, diversity of ability, or religious background. Together we join in sharing God's grace and serving through love, experiencing the transforming love of our Savior.

All who seek the Lord are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in, with, and under the bread and wine with his body and blood, gifting us with forgiveness and faith. Because we are not all able to gather in person, we also celebrate Holy Communion together in streaming worship. Households may prepare any kind of bread or cracker and any kind of wine or juice for use at home.

St. John's offers online worship opportunities by streaming services at www.Facebook.com/StJohnsBeaufort. Generally the earlier of our two Sunday services and other special services are streamed. You may join live or at a later time.

Personal Listening Devices and Large Print Bulletins are available.

www.StJohnsBeaufort.org

Christmas Eve 2025 - 3 & 7 pm

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland
Choir

Praetorius

The Holly and the Ivy
Choir

Traditional

Children's Song of the Nativity
Choir

Traditional

O Holy Night
Josh Overby, Solo; Gloria Bockelman, Piano

Traditional

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed in God's own image;
twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
a thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from
the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world,

Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,
willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

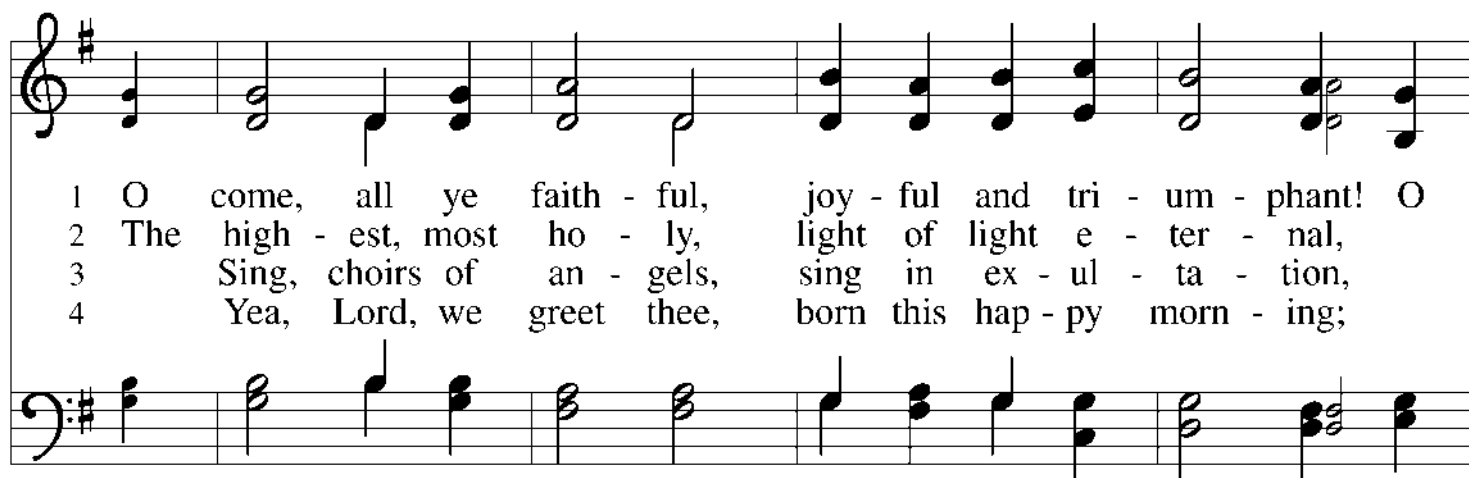
This night is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us!

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LBW 45 & ELW 283

Verse 1: All Verse 2: Lower voices Verse 3: Higher voices Verse 4: All



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!

GREETING

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart.

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

And also with you.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah

- ² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.
- ³ You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy.
They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.
- ⁴ As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,
the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.
- ⁵ Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders.
He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father,
Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.
The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

The good news of Christ's Birth, according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

² In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE *We share the peace with those who are with us in our homes or wherever we are located. We also pray for peace for and with all those with whom we join in worship, despite the fact that we are scattered.*

The peace of our Lord Jesus - the Word made flesh, the Light of the world, God with us, Emmanuel - be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

During this time, as church together we are all dependent on one another to each make an extra effort to meet the financial needs of the church. We encourage you to consider alternate means of sharing your offerings.

Options include:

- + mailing checks to the church office*
- + using your personal bank's online bill payment system to set up a recurring gift*
- + using St. John's online giving system which allows you to make one time and recurring gifts, using either a bank draft or a credit card.*

*To access this online giving system, you can scan this QR code with your phone or tablet camera or navigate to **www.SJBft.org/GiveToStJohns** on any browser.*



ANTHEM

Beautiful Savior
Choir

Helgen

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

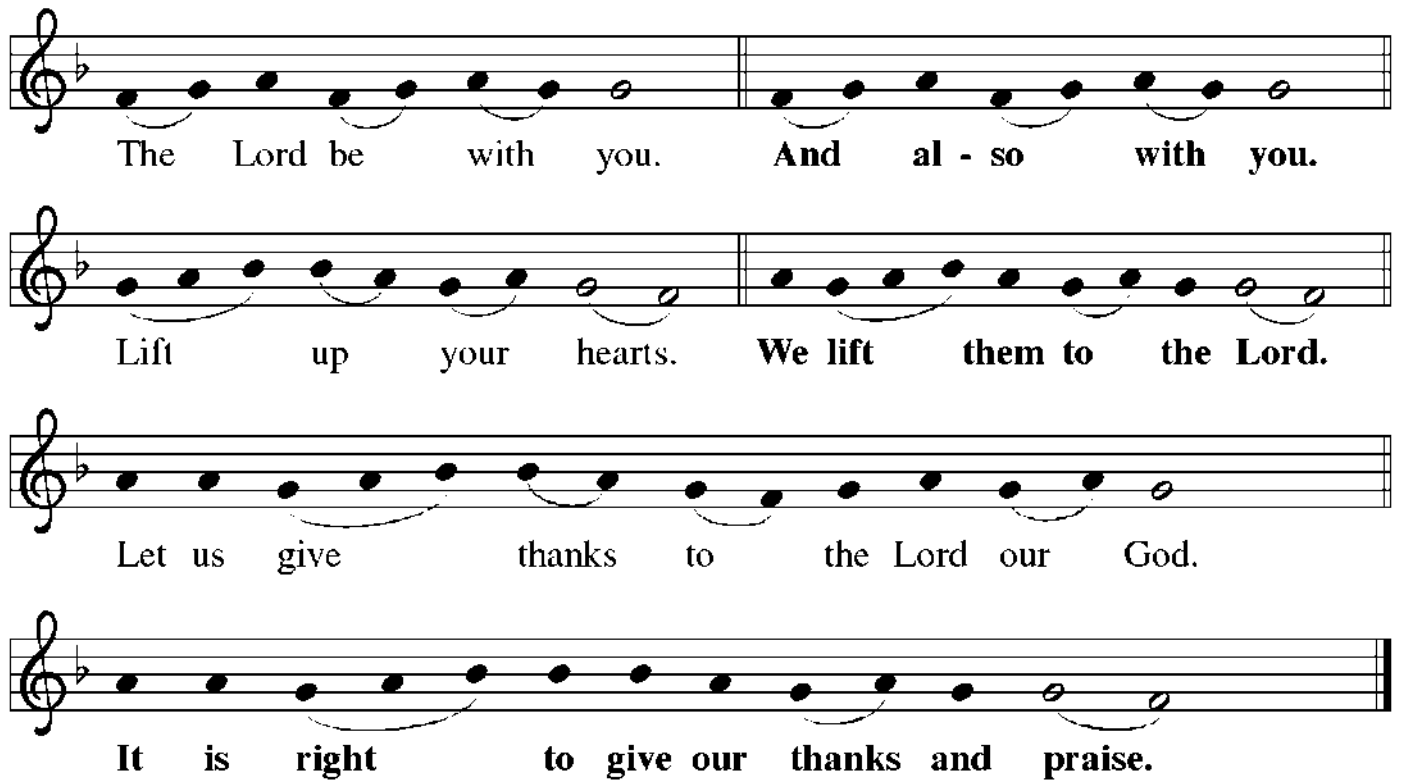
LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who seek the Lord are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine with his own body and blood, to gift us with grace, mercy, forgiveness, community, and new life.

Because all are not able to gather in person, we also celebrate Holy Communion together in streaming worship. Households who are unable to gather in person may prepare elements of bread and wine for the celebration, taking them together as a community gathered, even while distanced. Any kind of bread or cracker and any kind of wine or juice may be used.

Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms at your heart.

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

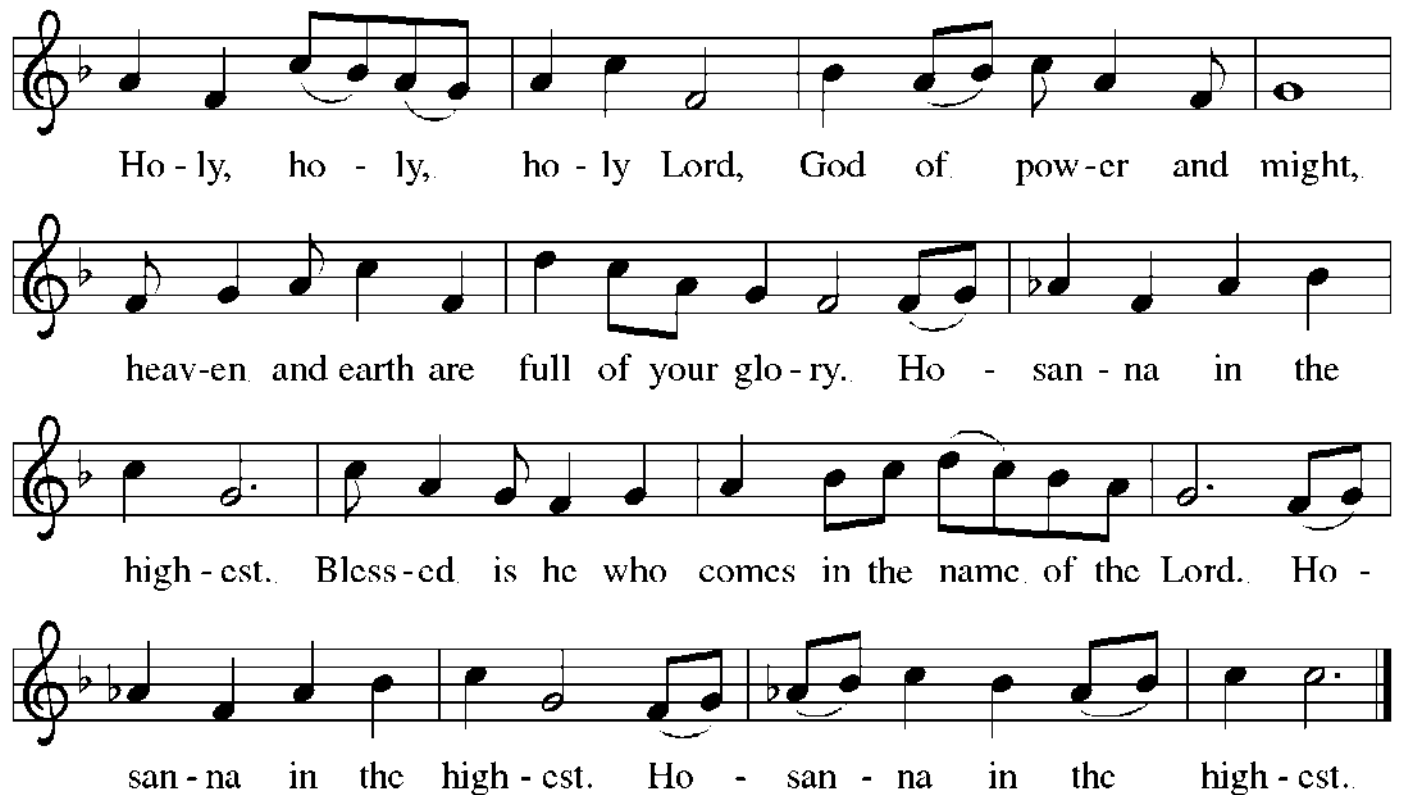
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you in the light and in the darkness. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 *Instructions will be shared as we celebrate.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

*Mid Winter
Choir*

Holst



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!

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

We light candles as a sign of the love of Christ shining in the world.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

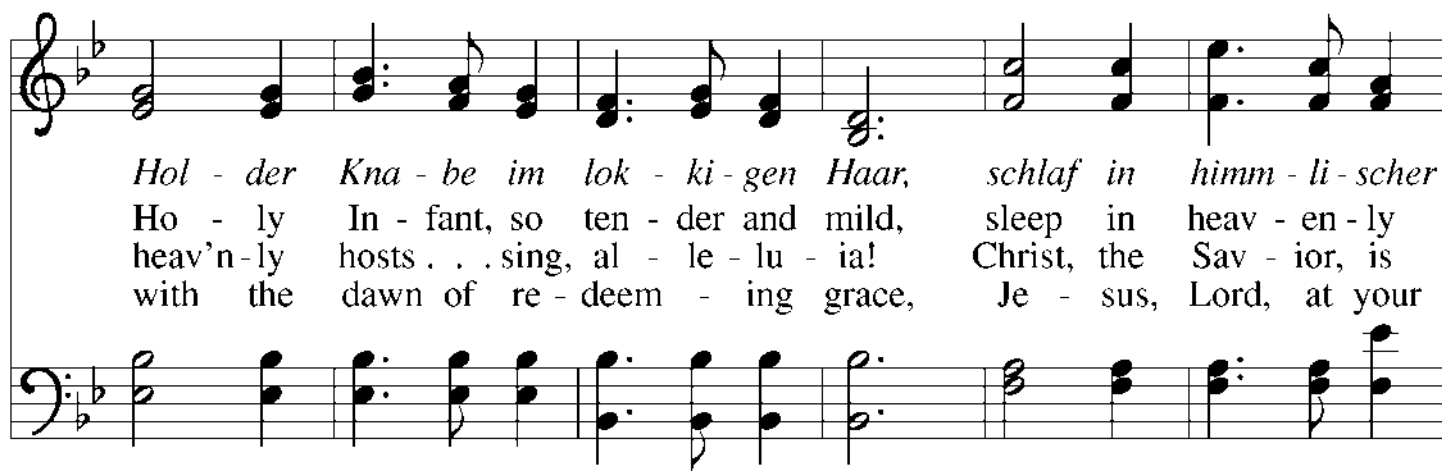
ELW 281 & LBW 65



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 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,



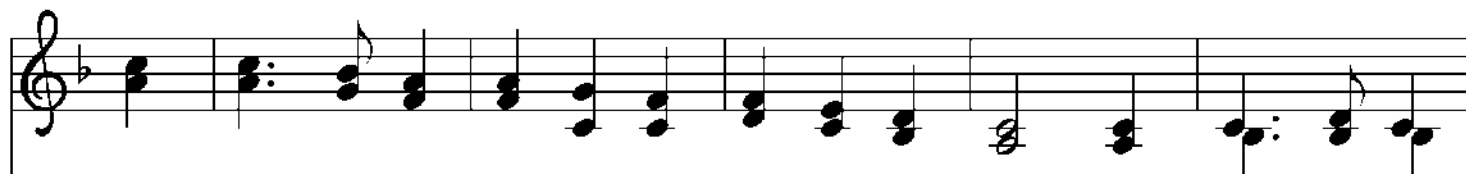
ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hol - der 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.



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

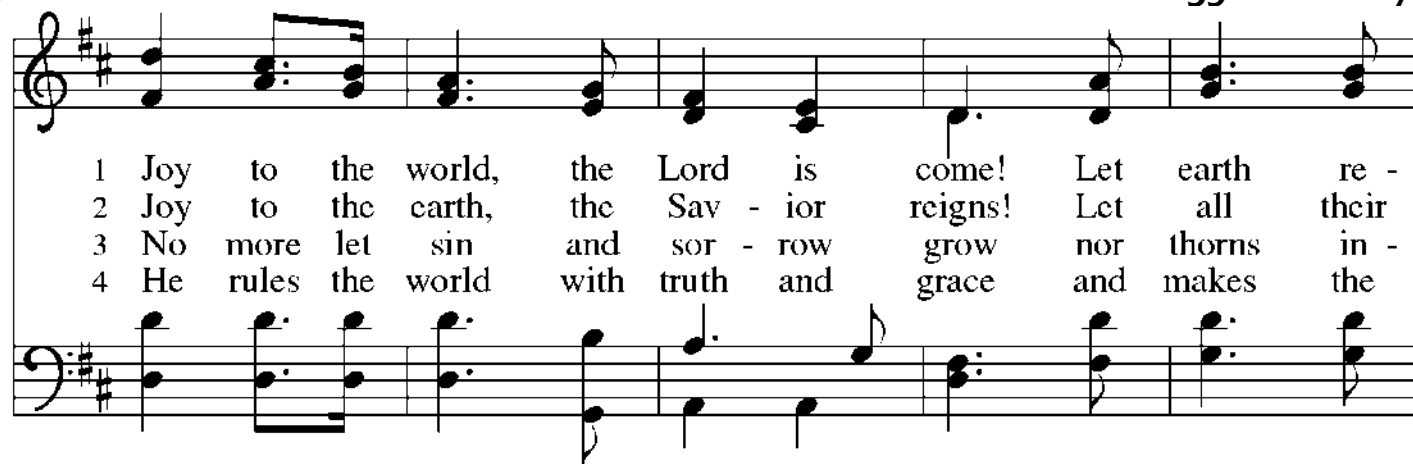


down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.



Joy to the World

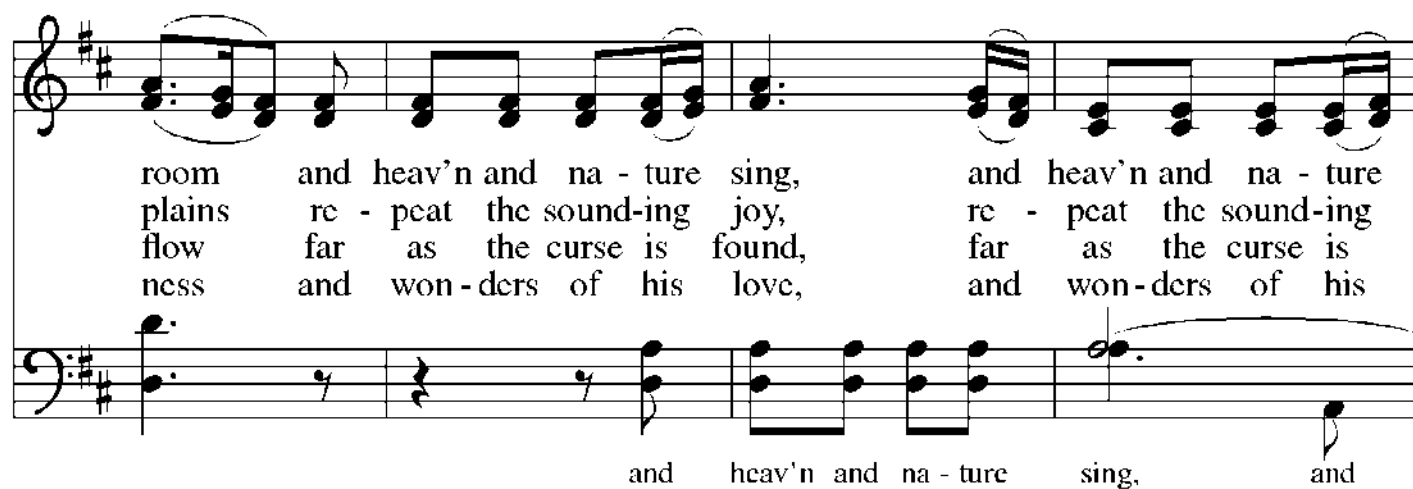
LBW 39 & ELW 267



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

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.

BENEDICTION

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Live God's grace.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

+ + +

*Please extinguish your candles and return to a collection basket
on a table before leaving.*

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O Come, All Ye Faithful, Angels We Have Heard On High, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Once In Royal David's City, Away in a Manger, What Child Is This, Silent Night, Holy Night!, and Joy to the World are in the Public Domain.

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St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

**You are invited to worship with us on the First Sunday of Christmas,
Sunday, December 28, 2025 + 8:15 am + 10:30 am
Facebook Livestream + 8:15 am**

+ + +

Mission Statement:

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Core Values:

We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.

All are welcome and valued, with no exceptions.

We serve and help our neighbors, community, and those who are in need.

We love, care for, nourish, and support one another.

We are boldly generous with time, talents, space, and resources.

+ + +

Pastor
Deacon
Seminarian
Director of Music
Organist
Tuba
Violin
Technical & Sound

P. Shannon Mullen
Katie Justice
Rolanda Gilliard
Josh Overby
Gloria Bockelman
Jim Colwell
Dorinda Selby
Curt Cianci and Tim Bockelman

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