

NORTHDAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAMPA, FL
DECEMBER 25, 2019

Northdale Lutheran Church and School

15709 MAPLEDALE BLVD

TAMPA, FL 33624

WWW.NORTHDALELUTHERAN.ORG

813-961-9195

"WE GROW IN GOD'S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD'S WORD"

CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE

Welcome to Northdale Lutheran! We are so glad you are joining us to proclaim what God has done and to sing his praises. Here the Lord also comes to us and strengthens us with his mighty Word. Take a moment to meet and greet those around you! Also:

- ❖ Restrooms are in the entrance and through the nursery hallway.
- ❖ Help us be more welcoming by signing the guest registers in each row.
- ❖ To help keep the sanctuary as a quiet place of worship and meditation and for your convenience, a Quiet Room is available for the whole service for young children in the back of the sanctuary. Please make use of this room if your child becomes loud in worship. ***Please do not leave children unattended in the Quiet Room. We ask that at least one adult be present while children are in this room.***
- ❖ Everything you need for worship will be printed in the worship folder.



THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

You are probably familiar with the carol The Twelve Days of Christmas. While that carol isn't religious, its title does capture the fact that on Christmas Day the Christian Church begins a twelve day celebration.

Historically, the celebration of Christmas didn't begin until Christmas Eve. That was the night homes were decorated with trees and tinsel. (It was the secularization of Christmas and the desire to have a longer shopping season that has pushed the "beginning" of Christmas back into November.) Christmas Eve often consisted of a vigil, either at church or in the home that was quiet and muted. Then, come Christmas Day, all Christians would gather in church as a joyous celebration began. Families would continue to worship (and yes, give gifts) for twelve straight days. The celebration of Christmas would end with the Festival of Epiphany, marking the appearance of the Wise Men.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY

Nativus is Latin for "birth." By the fourth century, the early Christian Church had set December 25th as the day to celebrate the birth of Christ. Along with Easter, it quickly became one of the major celebrations in the Church year. It often included the celebration of the Lord's Supper. This is seen in the word Christmas, which is simply short for "Christ's Mass."

OUR SERVICE TODAY

The service for today is a service of Christmas lessons and carols. This service is an adaptation of the Christmas Carol Service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England. This reflective service of praise focuses our attention on the promises of God to send the Savior into the world. We recall all these wonderful promises of God and celebrate their fulfillment in Bethlehem where God sent his Son into this world to be our Savior and to rescue us from the consequences of our sin.



CALL TO WORSHIP

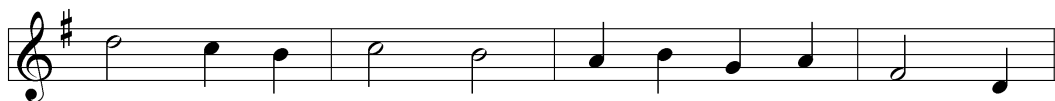
OPENING HYMN: CW #55, "OH, COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from 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, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

PLEASE STAND

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M: Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall, and into the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored. But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this holy night. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for the the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Word you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We humbly offer up these prayers and praises in the words that Christ himself taught us.

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD OF GOD—LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE TRAGIC NEED FOR GOD’S LOVE

THE FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 3:6-15

Humanity’s separation from God dates to the beginning of time, to the fall into sin by the first humans, Adam and Eve. As tragic as this was, the account ends with God’s promise of rescue—that the woman’s offspring, Christ, would ultimately defeat Satan and the rebellion of sin.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust



all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”



HYMN VERSE, CW #52 “ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING”

1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the
2 When sin de - parts be - fore your grace, Then life and
3 From out of dark - ness we have light Which made the

news the an - gels bring; On Christ - mas night all
health come in its place. When sin de - parts be -
an - gels sing this night. From out of dark - ness

Chris - tians sing To hear the news the an - gels bring,
fore your grace, Then life and health come in its place.
we have light Which made the an - gels sing this night:

News of great joy, news of great mirth,
An - gels and saints with joy may sing
“Glo - ry to God and peace to men

News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
All for to see the new - born King.
Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men.”

Text: English carol, abr., alt.
Tune: SUSSEX CAROL (88 88 88) English carol.

GOD IN LOVE PROMISES A RESCUE

THE SECOND LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

In love God promised a rescue already to Adam and Eve. Through the prophets he repeated that promise many times over centuries before the birth of Jesus.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

HYMN, CW# 65 "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM" (vs. 1-2)



1 O	lit - tle	town	of	Beth - le - hem,	How
2 For	Christ	is	born	Mar - y,	And,
3 How	si - lent	ly,	how	si - lent - ly	The
4 O	ho - ly	Child	of	Beth - le - hem,	De -

still	we	see	thee	lie!	A - bove	thy	deep	And
gath -	ered	all	a -	bove,	While	mor -	tals	sleep,
won -	drous	gift	is	giv'n!	So	God	im -	parts
scend	to	us,	we	pray;	Cast	out	our	sin
								And

dream -	less	sleep	The	si -	lent	stars	go	by.
an -	gels	keep	Their	watch	of	won -	d'ring	love.
hu -	man	hearts	The	bles -	ings	of	his	heav'n.
en -	ter	in;	Be	born	in	us	to -	day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The

ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
 in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -
 great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -

all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 God the King And peace to all the earth.
 ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
 bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93, abr., alt.
 Tune: ST. LOUIS (86 446 76 446) Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908.

LOVE REVEALS UNEXPECTED DETAILS

THE THIRD LESSON: Micah 5:2-4

Old Testament prophecies included unexpected details, such as the exact tiny village where Jesus would be born—and the expansion of his impact “to the ends of the earth.” This wonder of fulfilled prophecy continues to validate the story of God’s love even today.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 though you are small among the clans of Judah,
 out of you will come for me
 one who will be ruler over Israel,
 whose origins are from of old,
 from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
 until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
 and the rest of his brothers return
 to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock



in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.



HYMN, CW# 54 "WHERE SHEPHERDS LATELY KNELT"



1 Where shep - herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange-ly stirred;
Sweet new - born Babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed,
His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
Its way in - to my heart un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: MANGER SONG (12 12 10 10) Carl. F. Schalk, b. 1929. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
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LOVE'S PLAN REVEALED TO MARY

THE FOURTH LESSON: LUKE 1:26-38

God could have initiated the climax of his plan in some stunning manner. But he chooses a humble virgin. Along with Mary we might say, "Why?" And along with Mary we humbly accept God's plan and marvel at it.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



HYMN, CW #56 "GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD" (vs. 1-2)



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 stran - ger.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round them.
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.



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 S. Cook, 1859–1933.

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM (76 76 D) *Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae*, Griefswald, 1582.

LOVE'S PLAN REVEALED TO JOSEPH

THE FIFTH LESSON: MATTHEW 1:18-25

The wonder of fulfilled prophecy is valuable for Joseph . . . and for us. The many fulfilled prophecies are one way that God demonstrates the truth of his Word.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



HYMN, CW# 42 “COME, YOUR HEARTS AND VOICES RAISING” (vs. 1-2, 4-5)



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the
 2 See how God, for us pro - vid - ing, Gave his
 3 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in
 4 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor Beams with
 5 Gra - cious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing his love a -
 Son and life a - bid - ing; He our wea - ry steps is
 love our race be - friend - ing, In our need his help ex -
 com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -
 low - ly man - ger cheer us. Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
 guid - ing From earth's woe to heav'n - ly joy.
 tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
 ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
 near us Till we join th' an - gel - ic choir.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941.

Tune: QUEM PASTORES (88 87) *Ein Schlesisch singebüchlein*, Breslau, 1555.

GOD'S LOVE SENT HIS SON TO THE WORLD

THE SIXTH LESSON: JOHN 1:1-14

John records God's love displayed in the mystery of the incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



HYMN, CW# 35, "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN" (VS. 1, 2, 5)



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
 3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
 5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
 When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
 Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
 An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
 And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
 Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
 Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
 min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
 chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
 of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
 min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -



see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, st. 1-4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821-77, st. 5, alt.

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.

GOD'S LOVE BROUGHT SALVATION TO THE WORLD

THE SEVENTH LESSON: JOHN 3:16-18

the heart of Christmas is about God's redeeming love—God's rescue plan for a humanity alienated from him despite all claims of reform, goodness, or morality. The life, death, and resurrection of his Son has solved the problem. By trusting what Jesus has done for us, heaven awaits us and we live life this side of heaven in loyal thanks for rescue.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.



HYMN, CW# 61, "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain



born in Beth - le - hem!"
our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

OFFERING

Please sign the Friendship Register in each of the rows and pass it to those sitting next to you.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) The members of Northdale Lutheran joyfully give our offerings to the LORD in response to His Word and in thanks for the many ways he has blessed us. We have joined together as a congregation to use these offerings to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world through the work of our Synod. Your gifts moved by the Holy Spirit out love for God and his blessings are welcome.

Online giving is now set up and available through our membership software entitled Breeze. You can give through Breeze two ways: 1) You can give by texting "Give" to (813) 652-0408. 2) You can go to <https://northdale.breezechms.com/give/online>. You can certainly ask if you have any questions.

PLEASE STAND

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.



Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

PRAYER

M: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

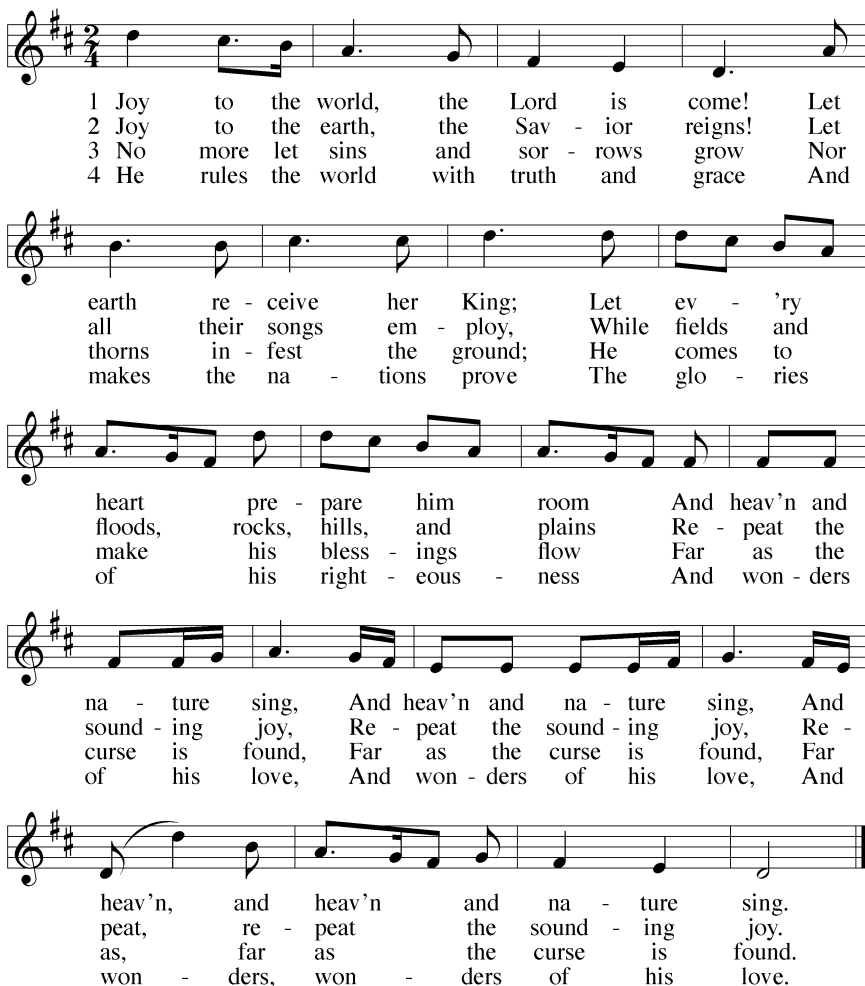
M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son (+) and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always..

C: **Amen. (Spoken)**

BE SEATED



CLOSING HYMN, CW #62 "JOY TO THE WORLD"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And

earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries

heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders

na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And

heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's blessings as you leave his house of worship today, rejoicing in what a great and awesome Savior we have in Jesus Christ. May the peace which he alone can bring between God and man guard and keep you throughout this season and the whole year through. Christ is born! Merry Christmas!

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

For over two thousand years the Christian world has marked the passing of time from the year of Jesus birth. Recognizing his coming into the world as the central event in the story of humankind, Christians count the years before his birth as B.C. (Before Christ) and the years after his birth as A.D. (Anno Domini, the Year of our Lord.)

An event so important wasn't just celebrated for a day or two. Early Christians would celebrate Christmas for twelve days. (You are perhaps familiar with the song The Twelve Days of Christmas). Our celebration of Christ's birth will follow that ancient pattern. Here is another opportunity to worship in this Christmas season:

Sunday, December 29 at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.—We gather to thank God for the year that has gone by and to ask for his blessings on the year before us. We give praise to God that in all things we know that he cares for us.

Please join us for this worship opportunity!

Called Staff

Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven: 813-787-4854

Principal Dane Mattes: 920-588-7599

Aimee Hardman: 813-464-5113

Christopher Haring: 517-202-7283

Joanne Mattes: 920-588-7596

Bethany Schwartz: 920-222-9279

Amy Vannieuwenhoven: 813-787-502



Serving Today

Music: Tabitha Vannieuwenhoven

Ushers: Chris Teeples and Ryan Cunill

Acolyte: Micah Vannieuwenhoven

Elder: David Mosakowski



WELS

Christ's Love, Our Calling.