



Christmas Day - December 26th

Hymn: Joy To The World

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

Christmas Exhortation and Prayer *(Congregation join in the bolded portions)*

M: Dear people of God, during this Christmas, it has once again been our privilege to hear the message of the angels, and to see the joy of the shepherds as they ran to Bethlehem to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us continue to come to the Holy Scriptures and find the love of God, who fulfilled his age old promise of a Savior, in the sending of his one and only Son. We were once a people lost in our rebellion, but now a people of glorious redemption by the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Christ Child.

But first, let us pray that the joy of the Christ Child might be proclaimed throughout the earth; for peace and justice on earth, **for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died**, for the people in our country and in this city, **and especially for the brothers and sisters in our synod and in our own congregation.**

And because of his great love and mercy for all mankind, let us remember in his name; the poor and the helpless, **the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed**, the sick and those who mourn, **the lonely and the unloved**, and the aged and the little children, **as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Finally, let us praise God for the faith of Joseph and Mary the mother of our Lord, **and for the faith of all believers everywhere, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one forevermore.**

The almighty God bless us with his grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and may the King of angels bring us all to the fellowship of the citizens above. Amen.

Hymn: Joy To the World vs 3&4

**No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

Isaiah 60:1-6

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims the love of God that would day be manifested in the birth of the Christ Child.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
³Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
⁵Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
⁶Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Hymn: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voices 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.

Isaiah 11:1-10

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims the righteousness and peace of the promised Savior. Isaiah's picture of peace takes us back to the perfect Garden of Eden as all creation enjoyed a perfect fellowship with God. It would be the Christ Child who would come restore sinners back to God, bringing a perfect peace between God and all mankind.

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
³and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Hymn: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



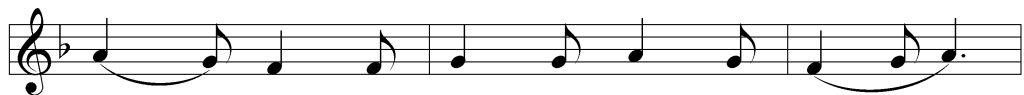
1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to
 3 Now through his Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di -
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly



voice; He from whom joy stream - eth Poor
 thee. Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O
 vine. Death o'er us had reign - ed Through
 ground? Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies; Not so bright - ly
 pure and ho - ly Child; Through thy grace and
 sin and van - i - ty; He for us ob -
 all his saints u - nite, Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.
 bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
 May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.
 Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.

Isaiah 9:1-2,6-7

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims the peace of the coming Savior. The Christ Child is the peace of God, as he is set above all thrones and powers as the almighty God and Savior.

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

⁶For 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.

⁷Of 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: Peace Came To Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but
wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but
else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

The picturesque language of this Jaroslav Vajda hymn vividly illustrates the weighty significance of God becoming man in Christ.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: PEACE CAME TO EARTH (10 10 10 88) Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952 © 2000 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP),
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Sermon: Luke 2:15-19

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

“The Greatest Gift”

Confession of Faith: *Meaning 2 Article of the Apostle’s Creed*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Offering

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 the many ways he has blessed us.

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.

If electronic giving isn't for you, you are invited to drop off or mail your offerings to the church.

Responsive 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.

M: As the angels sang out their praises, 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.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed



ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

Glo



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ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

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o.