

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service      December 24, 2025

Salem Lutheran Church    4700 West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268  
salemELCA.com   -   facebook.com/saleml75   youtube.com/@salemindy

We welcome you into the worship of Salem Lutheran Church where the Rev. Jeffrey Iacobazzi presides over this service of scripture, prayer, music and Holy Communion. Pastor Jeff serves as our Interim Pastor.

Holy Communion is served at the rail. (You may kneel or stand). Let Pastor Jeff know if you require a gluten-free wafer. The tray includes wine (the dark color) or white grape juice (the amber color).

There is a basket for your tithes and offerings. You may also give through our web site or by using the U. S. mail (addresses listed at the top of this page). [Click here for the link to the online page.](#)



We broadcast at 87.9 FM to the campus and New Augusta community. We have headphones available for those who need help hearing.

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**P   Presiding Minister**

**A   Worship Assistant**

**All   Congregation**

# Nativity of Our Lord



## I The Gathering

### **Prelude**

#### *Carols*

Rosemary Rader, piano

Charles Rader, recorder

Kalamo and David Adolphe, bassoon

*The bell is rung to announce the beginning of the service.*

### **The Welcome**

Erin Miller

# Confession and Forgiveness

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

**All** Amen.

**P** Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Reconciling God,

**All** we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.  
Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
Amen.

**P** God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
✙ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

All Amen.

## Gathering Song

# *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**ELW 270**



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!



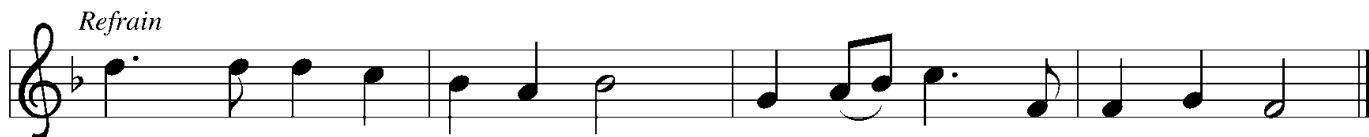
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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!"

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

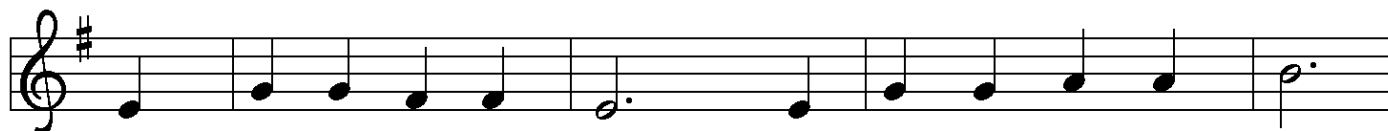
# Greeting

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All** And also with you.



# Kyrie



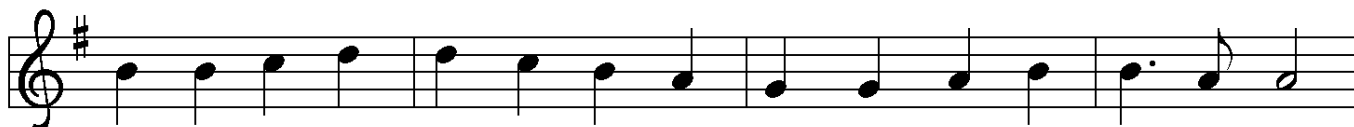
- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!



## Canticle of Praise



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

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## Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you

**All And also with you**

**P** 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.

**All Amen.**

## II. Word

### First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

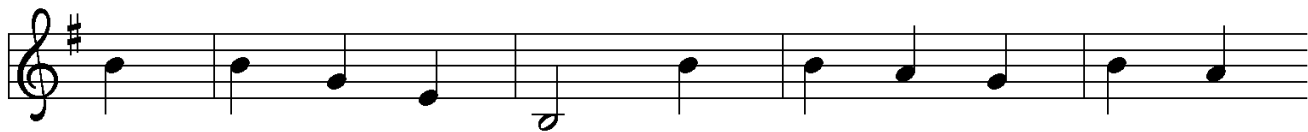
**A** The word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

# Psalmody

## Oh, Sing to the Lord

ELW 822



1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
3 So dance for our God, and blow all the trum - pets.  
4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
So dance for our God, and blow all the trum - pets.  
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So dance for our God, and blow all the trum - pets.  
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Spanish and English

Music: Brazilian folk tune

PUBLIC DOMAIN Translation © Gerhard Cartford, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Psalms 98

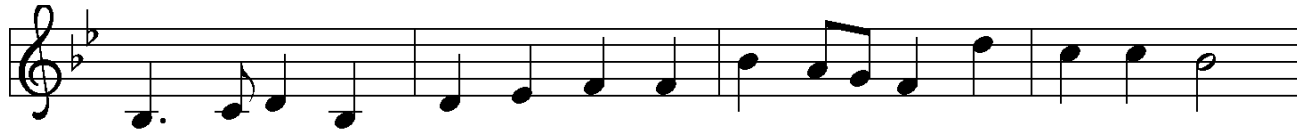


## Second Reading     Titus 2:11-14

**A**    The word of the Lord.

**All**   **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Acclamation



Al - le-lu - ia!    Lord and Sav - ior:    o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia!    Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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**P**    The holy gospel according to Matthew, the first chapter.

**All**   **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## The Gospel     Luke 2:1-20

**P**    The gospel of the Lord.

**All**   **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**     **Pastor Jeff Iacobazzi**

# Hymn

## *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

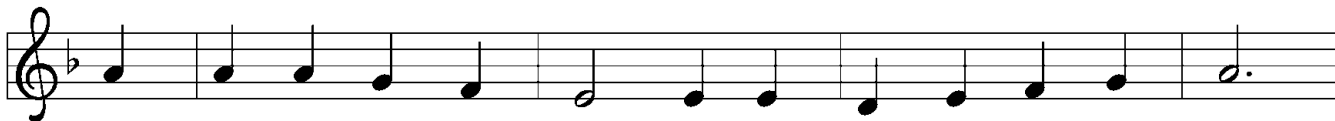
**ELW 279**



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
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.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

# Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

# Prayers of Intercession

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

*Responses after each petition:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**All** **hear our prayer.**

**P** 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.

**All** **Amen.**



## III. Meal

### Sharing of the Peace

**P** The Peace of Lord be with you always.

**All** **And also with you.**

# Offertory Prayer

**A** Let us pray.

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.

**All Amen.**



## The Great Thanksgiving

**P** The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

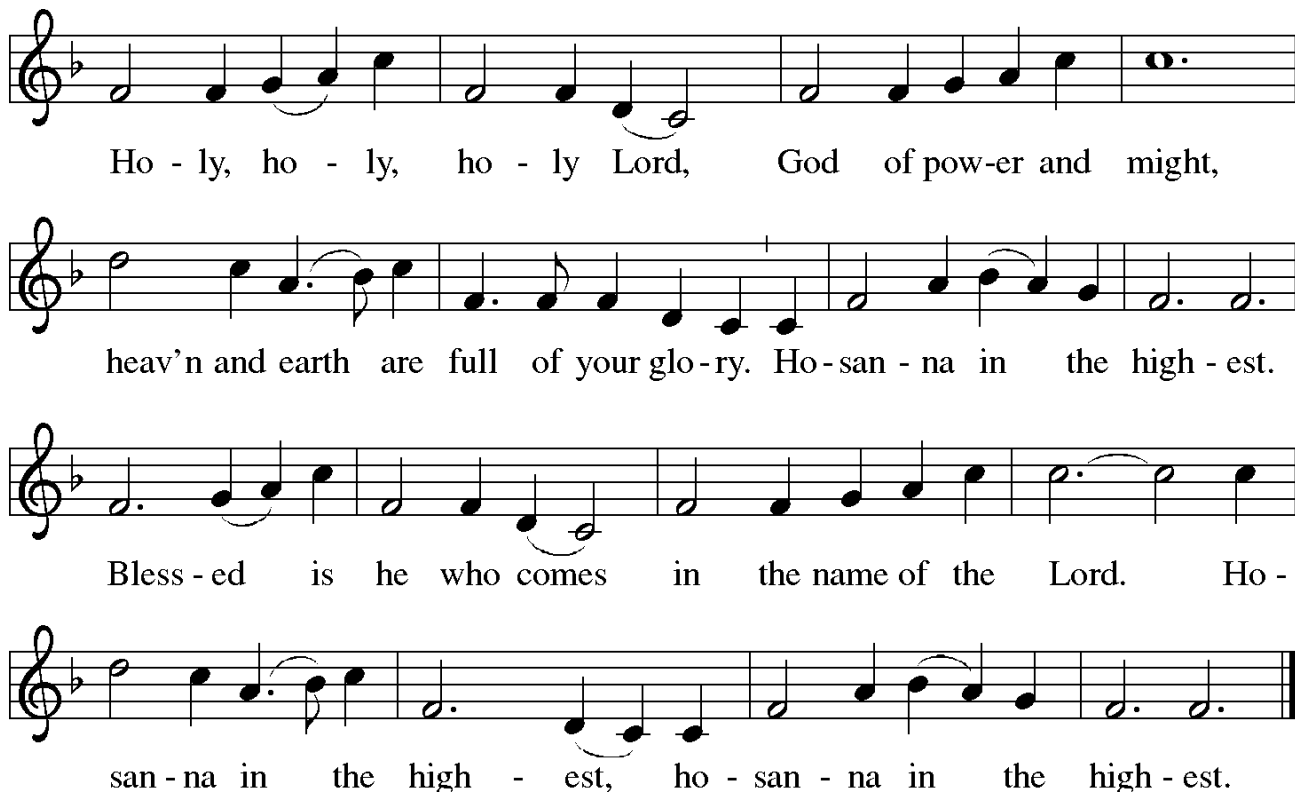
**All We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a whole note, the second and third with half notes, and the fourth with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n 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.

**P** . . . Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with  
the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**All Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

**All** 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.

## Invitation to Communion

**P** God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

# The Communion

*Come to the rail, as directed by the usher, and stand or kneel. Let Pastor Jeff know if you require a gluten-free wafer. The tray includes wine (the dark color) or white grape juice (the amber color).*

## Communion Blessing

**P** The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which you have now received, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

## Prayer after Communion

**A** Let us pray.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.  
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.

**All Amen.**

## IV. The Sending

*(Candles have been distributed to the worshipping community.*

*The pastor gives the light to ushers who in turn, share the light with those in the inner aisle who share them with those who are to their left or right. Never tilt a lit candle. Always tilt the unlit candle to light it.)*





## Hymn of Light

# *Silent Night*

**ELW 281**

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,

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

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

## The Gospel of the Incarnation

John 1:1-14

3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

*(Candles stay lit during the testimony and blessing.)*

## Christmas Testimony

**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**All** **The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

**All** **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as the only Son from the Father.**

**P** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given:

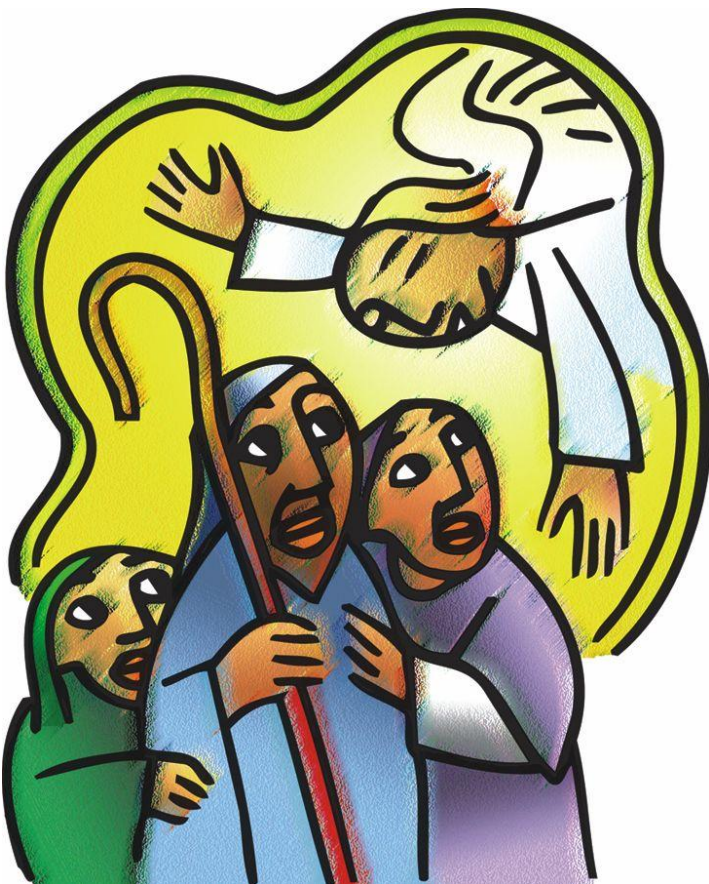
**All** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

# BLESSING

**P** The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
✝ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**All** Amen.

## Sending Song

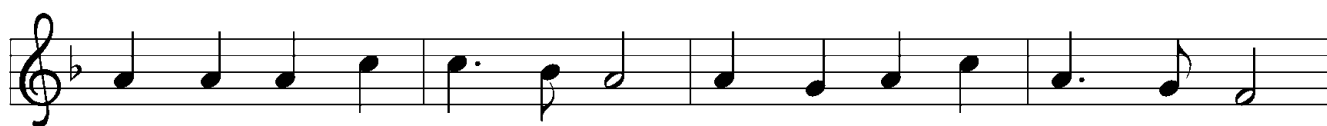


# Angels We Have Heard on High

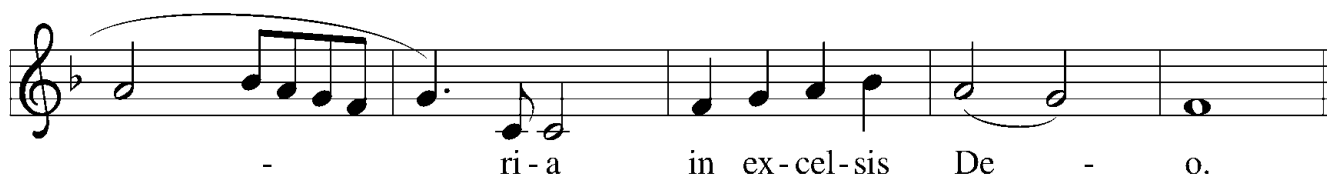
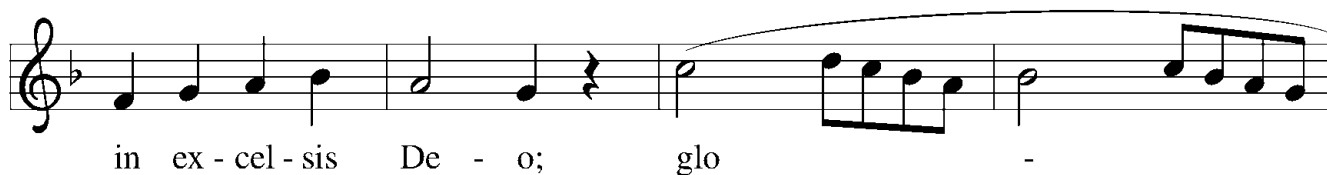
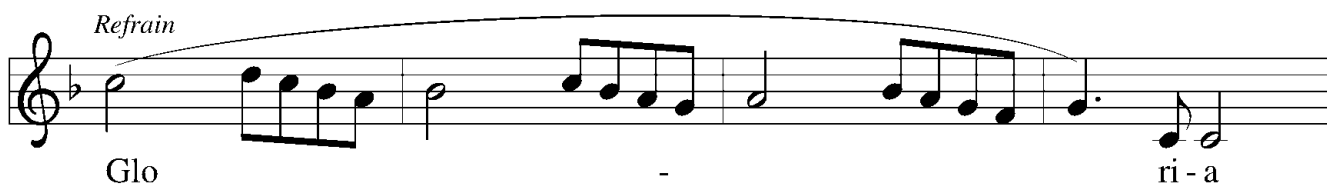
**ELW 289**



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

## **Dismissal**

**A** Glory to God in the highest!

**All And peace to God's people on earth!**

**A** Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**All Thanks be to God**

## **December 24, 2025**

**Rev. Jeffrey M. Iacobazzi, Presiding Minister**

**Rosemary Rader, Music Director**

**Charles Rader, Recorder**

**David Adolphe and Kalamo Adolphe, Bassoon**

**Erin Miller, Worship Assistant**

**Rachel and Divine Adolphe, Acolytes**

**Kalamo Adolphe, Media Assistant**

**Devoe Slisher, Media Director**