

Gathering Music

Rise Up Shepherd/Children Go Where I Send Thee

arr. David Huntsinger

(Please stand as you are able)

Sing We Now of Christmas

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!

Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Refrain

Sing we noel, the king is born, Noel.

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel.

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest."

Refrain

In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger, watching the holy child.

Refrain

From the eastern country came the kings afar,
Bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.

Refrain

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
There was never a stable so like paradise.

Refrain

Invocation

We gather for worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Call to Worship

Jesus Christ, the son of God, is born to us.

God's Word has been made flesh among us.

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

**Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness
have seen a great light.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of
humanity.**

(Please be seated)

Confession

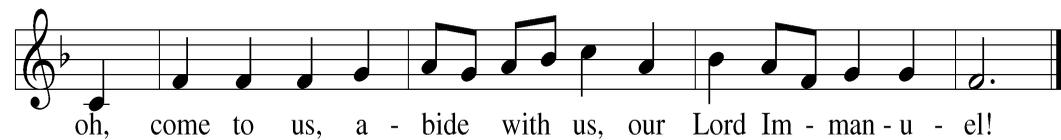
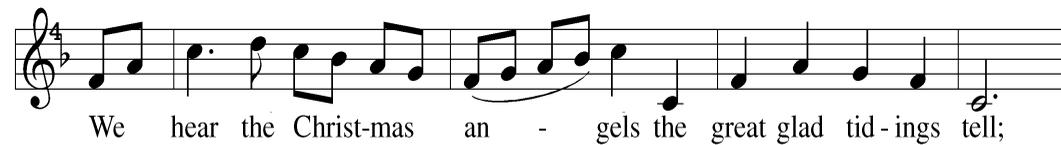
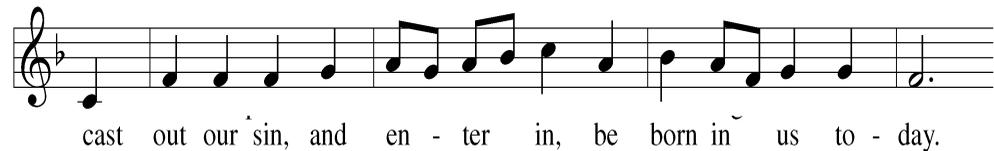
God, we come before you to confess our shortcomings and to hear once again of your undying love for us.

Christ, you were born to save us from our sin.

**We confess that we have heard your message
to love our neighbors, but we fail to act on its
meaning. Through those things we have done
and left undone we have resisted your
goodwill for us. Cast out our sin and enter in;
give us the rebirth of hope as we welcome the
child who was born to save.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the great good news which the angels proclaimed. Jesus, the Christ, is the Son of our loving God and he takes away the sin of the world. The message of the prophets is fulfilled in his coming. The chains of death are broken by his rising. The good news of Christmas is that God's child has come to live among us to save us from sin and death.



Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together.

God, may your holy light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Amen

(Please sing the response at the cantor's discretion)

Psalm: Every Nation on Earth

Michael Joncas

Robert Balsamo, baritone

Every nation on earth will adore you, Lord;
Every nation on earth will adore you, Lord.

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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.



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,



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.

Service of Lessons and Carols

O Little Town of Bethlehem

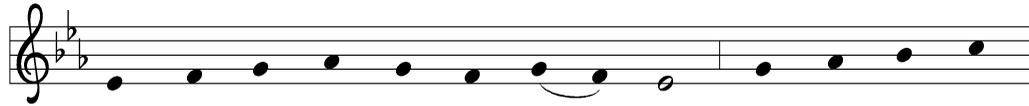


1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!

Reflection

First Reading: **Luke 1:26-38**

Of the Father's Love Begotten



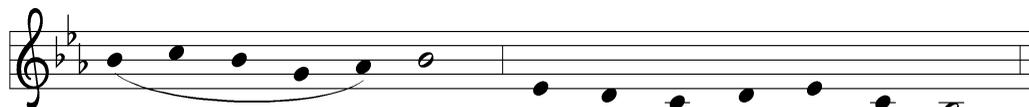
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



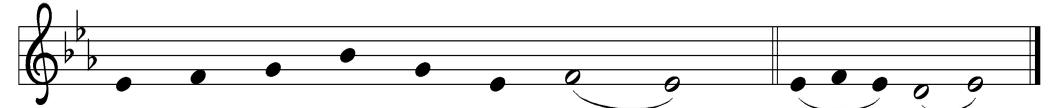
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

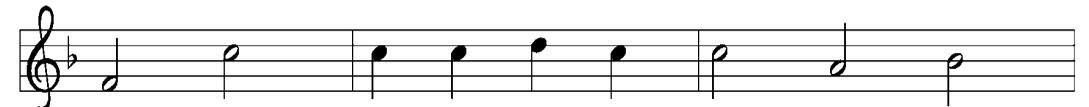
Reflection

Second Reading: **Luke 1:39-45**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Reflection

Third Reading: **Luke 2:1-7**

From Heaven Above to Earth | Come

Martin Luther/Johann Pachelbel

Organ

Reflection

Fourth Reading: **Luke 2:8-14**

The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Reflection

Fifth Reading: **Luke 2:15-20**

We Three Kings

1. We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to that perfect light.

2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
Refrain

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high.
Refrain

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Refrain

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through earth and skies.
Refrain

Reflection

Sixth Reading: **Matthew 2:1-11**

All Is Well

Michael W. Smith
Robert Balsamo, baritone

Reflection

Seventh Reading: **John 1:1-5, 14; 3:16-17**

Prayer

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and let the word of
Christ dwell in us richly.

Amen

(Please stand as you are able)

Christmas Creed

Let us confess our faith together.

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a little town; and whose Spirit still brings music to persons all over the world in towns both large and small.

I believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room.

I believe in the One who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand, whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from people with hungry hearts.

I believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I¹⁴ believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms; who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love forgave sin, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess our ever-lasting need of God: the need of new life, the need of love.

I believe that God gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the Son of the living God, born for me and for the world. Amen

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

(Please share a greeting of peace with those around you.)

(Hand sanitizer is provided for your use. It is located in the hymnal rack in each pew.)

(Please be seated)

Offering Music

Birthday of a King

W.S. Neidlinger

(Please remain seated)

Offering Response



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Prayers of the People

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Lord, you precede us in life and in faith, but you are never far from us. Stay by our side as we continue to learn your ways, and who we are as your sisters and brothers. Son of David,
hear our prayer.

Your promises, O God, are as small as a seed planted with hope in the fertile ground, and as great as the deliverance of an entire nation. Revive our wonder at the place we occupy within your grand design. Son of David,
hear our prayer.

We continue to celebrate our Savior's incarnation. May we witness to what matters in your world, unafraid to go against the grain with our proclamation. Son of David,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who wonder about their origins, or who are distressed by their family connections. Make of us one great fellowship united not by blood, but by Christ. We lift up all in our community who are ill, suffering or grieving: Scott, Chris, Dorothy, Pat, Gert, Scott, Noah, Sharon, Jennifer, Randy, Lloyd, Ellen, Jack, Sally, David, Amelia, Alex. Son of David,
hear our prayer.

Our ancestors in faith stretch out before us in a throng too great to number. Gladden our hearts within this communion of saints and bring us, in time, into eternal friendship with them. Son of David,
hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

We are yours, O Lord, and you are ours. Hear our prayers and set us about your kingdom's work on earth. For the sake of our incarnate Savior.

Amen



3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

(Please stand as you are able)

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!

Benediction

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

Amen

Sending Forth the People of God

Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge that God is always coming into the world.

We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and in the depths of our own hearts.

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sending Music

Cold December Flies Away

Spanish Carol

The **radio broadcast** is given by the Leatherman Family in memory of Victoria Leatherman, born in 1918, on what would have been her 100th birthday.

The **worship folders, 7-day candle** and **wine** are given by Susan Davie in memory of loved ones.



LESSONS & CAROLS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 30th, 2018
9:30am