

Christmas Eve

The Light from Above

December 24, 2022



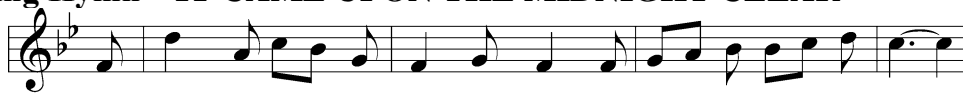
✠✠✠ Prelude ✠✠✠

✠✠✠ Call to Worship ✠✠✠

*Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness over the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you, and His Glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you!*

Opening Hymn "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

#366



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all - gra - cious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - ’ring wing,
 Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an - cient prom - ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o’er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-76, alt.

Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

✠✠✠ Christmas Dialogue ✠✠✠

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has Light shined.
C: **We have beheld Christ’s Glory, Glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: For to us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.
C: **In Him was life, and the life was the light of the world.**

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you!
C: **And with your spirit.**

P: Let us pray:
 Almighty God, you made this Holy Night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our newborn Savior. We praise and thank you for having revealed to us your true Light, the Light that never fades or fails us. Be with us now as we gather together to worship you and fill us with peace and joy as we join to praise you for your great and gracious Gift to us – the Light of the world.
All: Amen.

Hymn “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

#361



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!
 4 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.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93
 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908
 Text and tune: Public domain

✠✠✠ Confessional Dialogue ✠✠✠

- P:** How I love you, Lord! You are my defender.
- C** **O Lord, you are my Light. May God dispel my darkness.**

- P:** The Lord is my Savior; He is my strong fortress. My God is my protection; I am safe with Him.
- C** **He protects me like a shield; He defends me and keeps me safe.**

- P:** O Lord, you are my Light. May God dispel my darkness.
- C** **I call to the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and He saves me from my enemies.**

- P** Death pulled its ropes tight around me; the waves of destruction washed over me.
- C** **O Lord, you are my Light. May God dispel my darkness.**

- P** In my trouble I called to the Lord; I called to my God for help.
- C** **In His Temple He heard my voice; my cry for help reached His ears.**

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them the Light has shined.
- C** **For to us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

All: O Lord, you are my Light. May God dispel my darkness. Purge from me the darkness of sin. Let the Light of salvation burn away my transgression and assure me that your mercy and your forgiveness are for me.

P: The Light of God, even Jesus our Savior, has come into the world. He has come so that your darkness may be dispelled. He has come so that you may have peace with God. By the Power of the Word of God, His Light, His very Son, I by virtue of the Office given to me, at the command of the Lord Jesus, forgive you all of your sins, in the Name of God the Father, God the ✠ Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Through God’s Son you are forgiven. You are free from sin. Walk in the Light of God, now and forevermore.

All: Amen.

Hymn “AWAY IN A MANGER”

#364

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children’s Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
 Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise “ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

#368



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.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.

Text and tune: French

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn “WHAT CHILD IS THIS”

#370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98
Tune: English, 16th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn “GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD”

#374



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 strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



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 Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald

Text and tune: Public domain

OFFERING – *We Thank the Lord with the Offerings*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ here at Our Redeemer, and in every true Christian congregation throughout the world, and also that those who do not know the Lord are brought to faith that they might receive the consolation of Christ.

[a moment of silence for personal reflection]

P O Lord, this Christmas enkindle anew the Light of Hope in our lives.

C Inspire us to see that your hand is always there with us to help and to support us, wherever we go.

P Lord God Almighty, we come before You on this most holy night in awe at the wonder and majesty of the incarnation. The Savior of the nations has come, and with joy we greet our newborn King. Let the proclamation of His birth sound forth throughout the world. Give to Your Church faithful teachers to proclaim the good tidings of His birth,

C and give to Your people willing ears to hear and believe.

P In the birth of Your Son, You have signaled the beginning of a new creation; while we still live in a world wracked by the ravages of sin, we know that the final victory is Yours. Watch over and keep safe emergency workers and all whose vocations keep them from their families this evening for the well-being of our families.

C **We thank You for all those who have the heart to stand for others.**

P In the birth of Your Son, You have visited and redeemed Your people. Continue to visit those who are lonely, sick, recovering or near death. Let Your presence be a comfort to them, and give them perseverance until that time You grant healing, relief, deliverance and peace.

C **O Lord, in Your mercy, hear our most reverent prayer.**

P In the birth of Your Son, and by His death and resurrection, You have reconciled the world to Yourself. Keep us ever mindful that Jesus is for all people, and give us opportunity to tell others the good news of His coming so that they can join in the praise of Your holy Name.

C **May Your family grow as sons and daughters are brought into Your One Holy Church.**

P In the birth of Your Son, You have called people of all times and places into the Body of Christ that is the Church. We give You thanks for all the believers who have gone before us, especially those who have been with us during Christmases past, and are now with You. Give us a sure confidence in Your promise of resurrection and eternal life, and bring us at last together with them into Your presence at the full coming of Your kingdom.

C **Our hope has never been in this world, but in Your promised World to Come.**

[thanksgiving and special intercessions are offered]

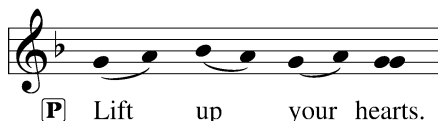
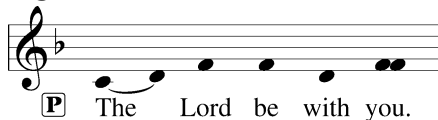
P Into Your hands, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

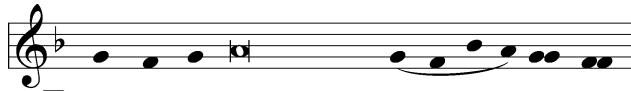
PREFACE

LSB 160





C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of Heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

THE BLESSING

161

P Blessed are you, Lord of Heaven and Earth, for you have had mercy on us children of men and given your only-begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give you thanks, therefore, for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may establish in us a living faith, and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer, and receive Him who comes to us in His Body and His Blood

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

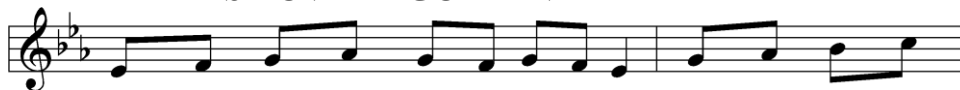
DISTRIBUTION

Choral Selection _ “Gesu Bambino”

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN”

#384



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,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav’n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 Δ 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,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 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 -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing 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
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 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.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “THANK THE LORD”

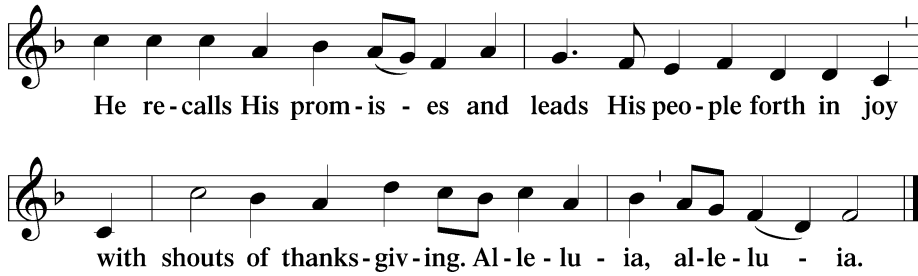
LSB 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear His name.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

✠✠✠ Closing Verses ✠✠✠

P: The Light of Christ fills us, illuminates our inward selves so that we might be lights to the world. The joy of the birth of the Savior is in our hearts. We let His marvelous Light that is Life flow from us, and we bless the world. For we know with absolute certainty that ...

C: Jesus the Savior is born!

P: Praise the Lord with joy-filled hearts!

C: We praise Him! We bless Him! Christ is our King forever!

P: And He blesses you with His eternal gifts – the Gift of Christmas – and with the assurance of His unending grace and presence, now and forevermore.

The Lord bless you can keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you + Peace.

C: Amen.

[lighting of the candles]

P: A virgin, alone with her betrothed husband, in a strange town, far from the comfort of her home, gave birth to a Child in the cattle loft of an Inn. This is how God came to us: not in a storm, not in an earthquake, not in the fire, but in the gentle crying of a newborn Baby. Behold the Light of Light, the Word made flesh, the Savior, Christ the Lord. Bask in the Light, the Baby Jesus, the Savior, Christ the Lord. The Savior is here. d make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Trio will sing one verse of “Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht” (German) followed by the congregation singing the closing hymn.

Closing Hymn “SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT”

#363 *sts. 1–3*”

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,
 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 Thy ho - ly face
 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 Thy
 peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863
 Text and tune: Public domain

✠✠✠ We Exit in Silence ✠✠✠

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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