

Nativity of Our Lord

Holden Evening Prayer

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

December 24, 2021

8:00pm – Christmas Eve



Bell Ringing

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Hark the Herald

Bethlehem Bells

(P: A light shines in the darkness. A: And the darkness has not overcome it.)

Prayer of Confession

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C:Amen.

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ☩ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

C: Amen.

Children's Message

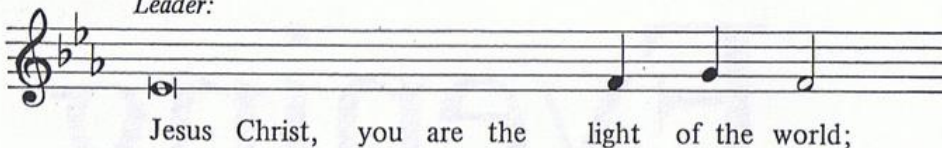
Annie Slabaugh

We begin with Holden Evening Prayer

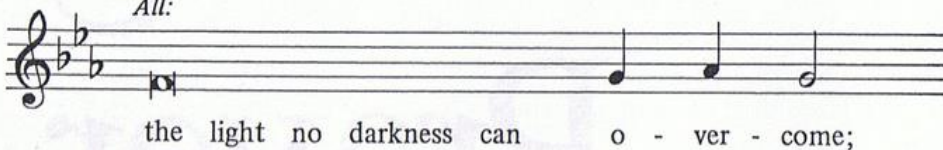
1. SERVICE OF LIGHT

Procession

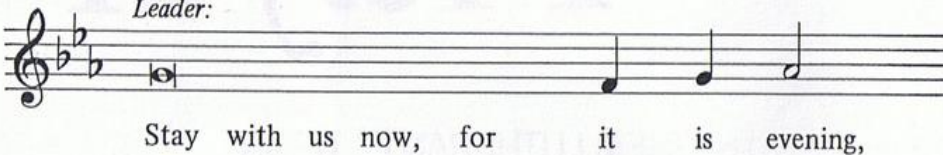
Leader:



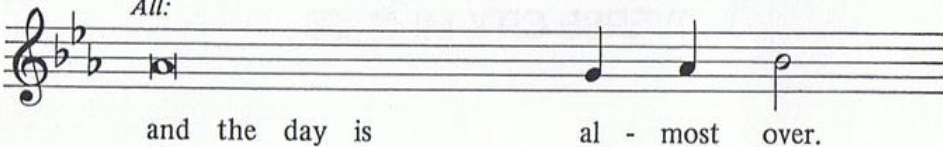
All:



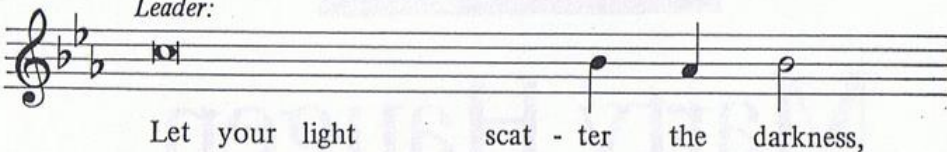
Leader:



All:



Leader:



All:



Evening Hymn

All: *a tempo*



1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



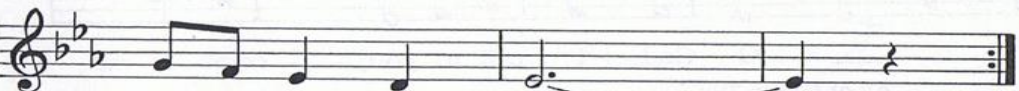
sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our

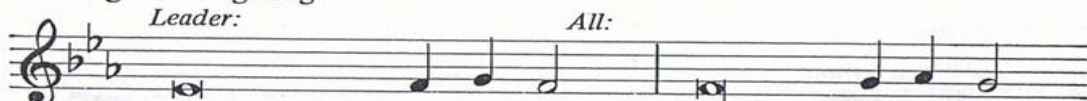


you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us

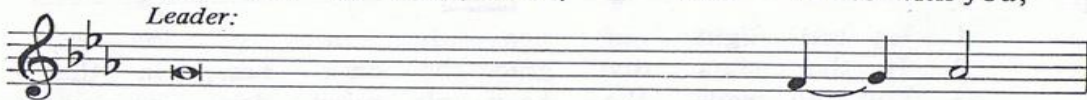


light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

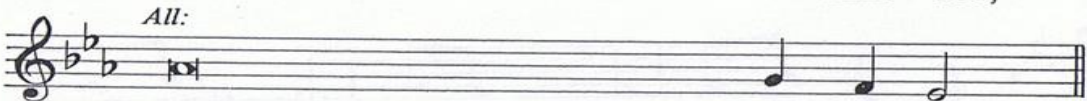
Evening Thanksgiving



May God be with you all, and al - so with you;



Let us sing our thanks to — God,



It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.



A — men.

2. PSALMODY, READINGS AND CANTICLES

Psalm 141



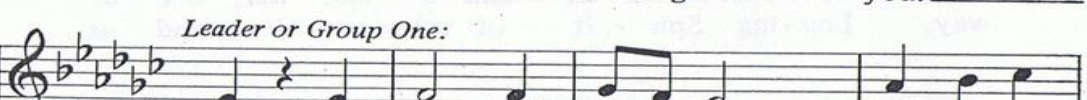
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -



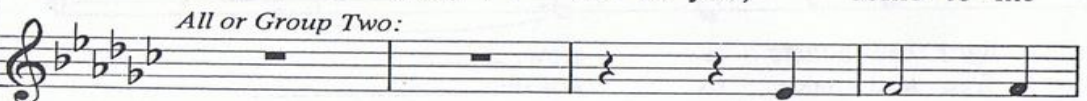
fore you, the lift - ing up of my



hands as an of - fer - ing to you. —



— O God, I call to you, come to me



O God, I

now; O hear my voice when I
call to you, come to me now; O

cry to you. ————— Let my prayer rise
hear my voice when I cry to you.

up like in cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. ————— Keep watch with - in me, God;
of-fer-ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the

burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise
light of your love be burn - ing bright.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to
fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. All praise to the God of all - Cre -
of - fer - ing to you. All

7

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the
praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all

Spir - it of love. ————— Let my prayer rise
praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. —————
of - fer - ing to you.

(Silence for meditation)

Leader: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

All: Amen.

WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

C: Glory to you, O Lord

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

(Prayers of Intercession will be sung later on page 13 as part of Holden Evening Prayer)

Sharing the Peace:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering Song

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Offering Prayer:

A: Let us Pray. God of all creation

C: **Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.**

As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the fourth line. The music ends with a double bar line.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus...

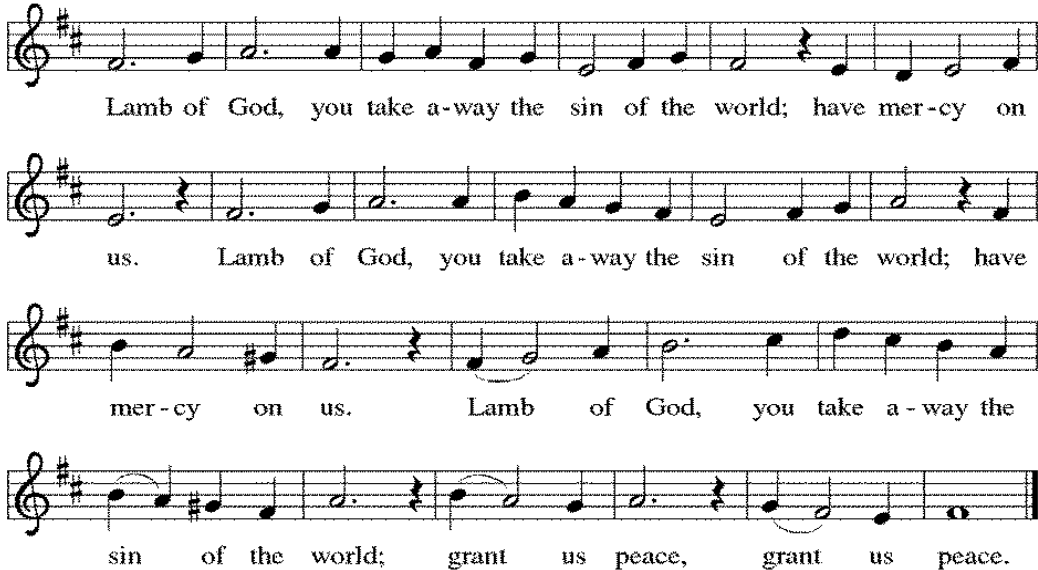
Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

P: The gifts of the God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.





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, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns (Selected Verses only)

The First Noel

ELW 300

1 The first Noel the angel did say was to
 certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in
 fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on
 a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel,
 Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star shining in
 the east beyond them far; and to the earth it
 gave great light, and so it continued both day
 and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the
 King of Israel.

Away in the Manger

ELW 277

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
 the stars in the bright sky
 looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
 close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care
 and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness

All: and the darkness has not overcome it.

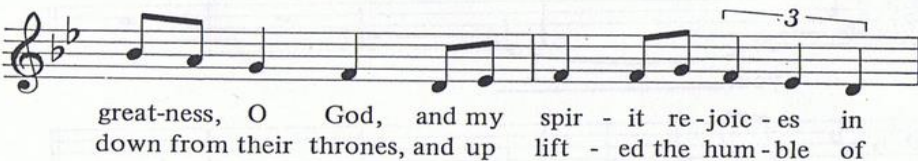
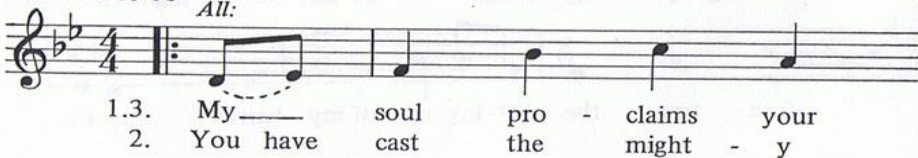
The Annunciation

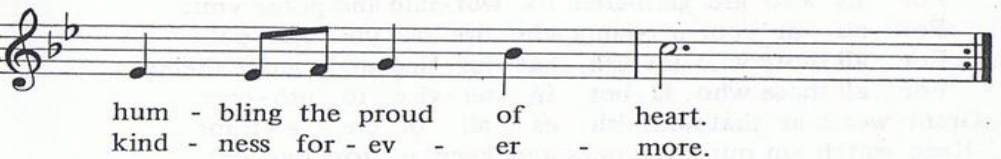
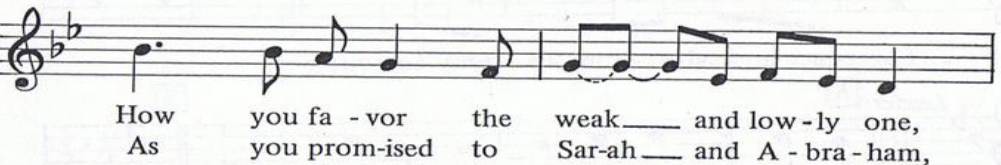
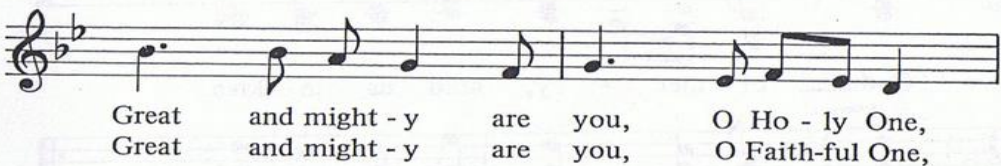
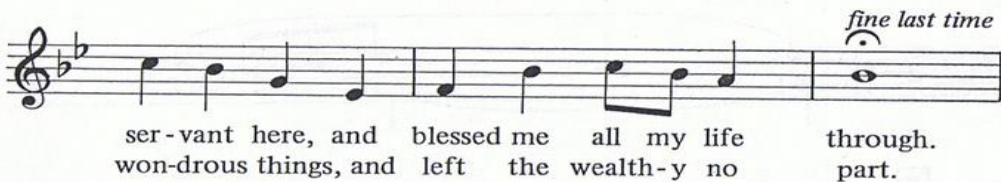
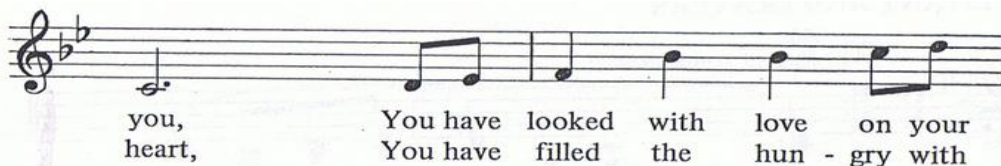
Luke 1: 26-28, 30-32, 38

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."
(immediately to "The Magnificat")

The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55





3. LITANY AND PRAYERS

[A] *All: Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

[B]

God — of mer - cy, hold us in love.

Leader: **[A]** **[B]**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray_ to you:

Leader: **[A]** **[B]**

2. For peace and sal-va-tion, we pray to you:

Leader: **[A]** **[B]**

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:
4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:
6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish-es all of cre-a-tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
10. For all the be-lov-ed who rest in your mer-cy:



Leader: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

SENDING

(Candles for Silent Night are lit at this time)

Candlelight Song

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior,
is born!

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

(Candles are extinguished; lights are turned on)

Final Blessing

Leader: Let us bless our God: *All:* praise and thanks to you.

Presider: May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may

Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the

Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for

all of our days.

All: A - - - - - men.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“We journey with God to serve with love.”

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Pastor Paul Busekist

Music: David Husser

CCLI #11177197

Merry Christmas!