

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Zachary Pudlo
Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal



Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

Welcome to our Worship Center

God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament.

As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Christmas Worship Focus



“Silent Night” was written originally in German by Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend says the church organ was broken, prompting Gruber to compose a simple guitar accompaniment. Subsequently accompanied by many instruments and translated into many languages, the text paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: “Christ the Savior is born!” Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

In the Twelve Days of Christmas, our worship follows this pattern.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

First Sunday after Christmas

Epiphany of Our Lord

Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia

Holy Infant So Tender and Mild

Son of God

Love's Pure Light Beams from Thy Holy Face

HEAVENLY HOSTS SING ALLELUIA Families cherish their Christmas traditions. Year after year, they decorate the tree with the same ornaments, play the same music, bake the same Christmas cookies. Without asking, family members know when they will open presents. If you try to change your family's Christmas traditions, you might be in trouble! When it comes to family Christmases, people generally don't like things to change.

Because our celebration of Christmas has so many unchanging traditions, we might miss the fact that the birth of Christ the Savior meant radical change for the world. Would the change be an improvement or another step in decline? The angels answer the question. They don't sing “Watch out for impending doom!” They sing “glory” and “peace,” praising God with alleluias!

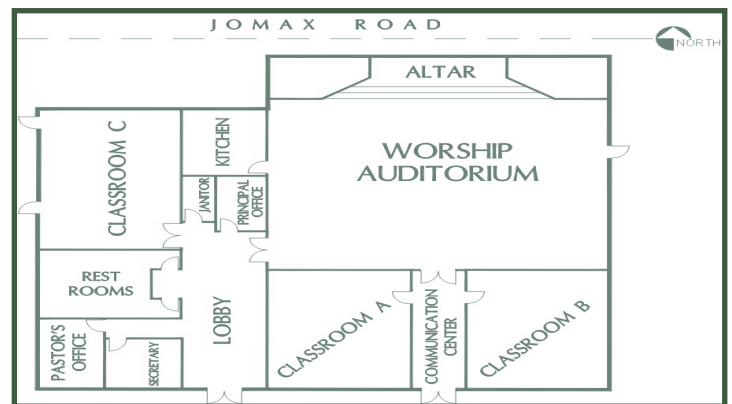
VISITOR INFORMATION

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today! We invite you to stay after the service to chat.

Would you like to learn more about us? We'd love to get to know you better as well. Connect with Cross of Glory by either:

- Using the **friendship register** at the end of each row to connect with us today.
- Emailing us at church.secretary@crossofglory.org

CHURCH MAP



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult in Classroom A.
- Children in Church Program: Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. We encourage parents to guide their children through the service. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

The Festival of the Nativity—Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Preservice Music

Cross of Glory Musicians

Ensemble

Come Adore the Humble King / O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words and Music by Matt Papa & Matt Boswell
Congregation joins for “O Come, All Ye Faithful”



Ensemble sings:

*Come adore the humble King, lowly in the manger;
fall before his majesty, hail the little Savior.
Hope what hope no tongue could tell, God has come with us to dwell;
his name is Emmanuel, O praise the humble King.*

*Come adore in humble state, he the song of angels;
join the wise who call his name and with all creation.
Who, O who would condescend, God unknown now calls us friend;
love that none could comprehend, O praise the humble King.*

*Come adore the King who came to our world to save us;
born to heal our prideful race, crown us with forgiveness.
Fall oh fall before the one who in mercy left his throne.
Christ the Lord, God's only Son; his glories now we sing,
O praise the humble King.*

*Come adore, come adore, come adore the King.
Bow before, come adore the name above all names. (2x)*

We begin the service with a call to worship Jesus Christ, who, despite being God's Son, chose a life of lowliness, service, and poverty to bring salvation to humanity. The congregation joins for verses of *Adeste Fideles* or “O Come All Ye Faithful”, a traditional call to worship. It begins with Isaiah's prophecies of Christ, the promised one followed by New Testament verses confirming Jesus as the prophesied Messiah.

Congregation sings:

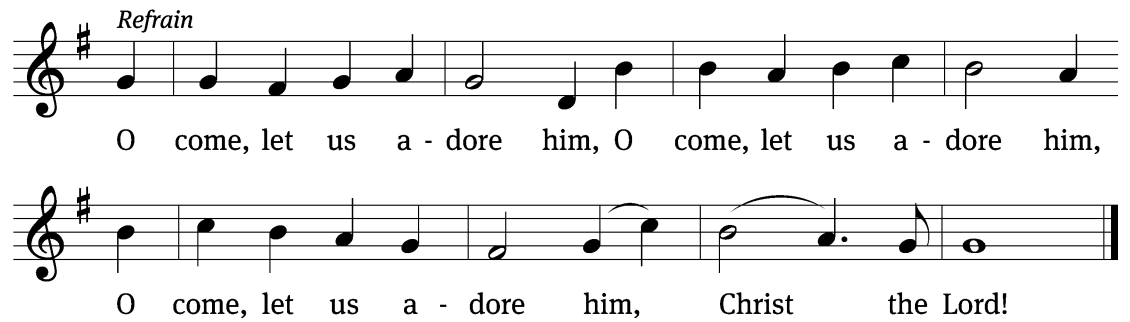
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:



The Bidding Prayer begins the Festival of Lessons and Carols. We pray for believers in Christ, those who are suffering and those who don't yet know the love of Jesus.



Exhortation and Prayer

(Spoken Responsively)

M: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall, and into the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored.

But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this Christmas Eve. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We humbly offer up these prayers and praises in the words that Christ himself taught us.

Lord's Prayer

(Spoken in Unison)



We join in the prayer
that Jesus taught us.

(Matthew 6)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.



The Seed of the Woman Will Crush the Serpent's Head

Genesis 3:8-24



⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

In love, God promised a
rescue to the world in
the Garden of Eden.
Through the prophets
he repeated
that promise many
times over centuries
before the birth of
Jesus.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,
“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

²⁰Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

²²And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.



God’ first promised a Savior in the Garden of Eden. Jesus would be the source of eternal life, replacing the forbidden tree in Eden.

Carol: The Tree of Life

CWH 574

Cantors sing Vs. 1-2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3

*The tree of life with ev’ry good in Eden’s holy orchard stood,
and of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew another tree, of which they knew;
its lovely limbs with fruit adorned against whose eating God had warned.*

*The stillness of that sacred grove was broken as the serpent strove
with tempting voice Eve to beguile and Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
its awful poison first displayed within the world so newly made.*

Congregation sings:



Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955 Tune: Bruce W. Becker, b. 1952



**God Promises to Faithful Abraham that in
His Seed Shall All the Nations of the Earth
Be Blessed.**

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”



Following Abraham's demonstration of faith in his willingness to sacrifice his son, God augmented the promise made in the Garden of Eden with the blessing to Abraham that the Messiah would be his descendent.



This hymn, rooted in Zachariah's prophecy (Luke 1:68-79) celebrates God's faithfulness and his fulfilling of his promise to send a Messiah who brings salvation.

Carol: Now Bless the God of Israel

CWH 973

1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and
2 Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from

pow'r, who rais - es from the roy - al house de -
fear, that we might serve in ho - li - ness and

liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets
peace from year to year; and you, my child, shall

God has sworn to free us from a - larm, to
go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy, that

save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.
all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God Most High.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text: © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716
Tune: © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716



In love, God promised a rescue to the world in the Garden of Eden. Through the prophets he repeated that promise many times over centuries before the birth of Jesus.



The Prophet Foretells the Coming of the Savior

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

- 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.

Women's Choir

Come, Messiah, Come

Words and Music by Lynn Shaw Bailey & Becki Slagle Mayo

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come.

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come!

Lord, reveal your mercy. Guide us Lord, we pray.

May we see your light and walk your way.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, Lord, we pray.

Lord, reveal your mercy. Guide us Lord, we pray.

May we see your light and walk your way.

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come. O come.

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come.

Lord, reveal your mercy. Guide us Lord, we pray.

May we see your light and walk your way.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, Lord we pray.

Lord, reveal your mercy. Guide us Lord, we pray.

May we see your light and walk your way.

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come. Oh come.

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come.

Emmanuel, Messiah, come. Come, Messiah, come!



This anthem expresses the deep longing for the Messiah's arrival, drawing on Old Testament prophecies (Isaiah), and leading into the Christmas story with meanings centered on anticipation, redemption, and the promise of Christ's kingdom.



David's dynasty died in 586 B.C. The Babylonians served as the ax of God that cut off the line of Jesse and made David's family tree nothing but a stump. But behold, a branch is growing! A new shoot sprouts from Jesse's stump. God would renew the stump of David's kingdom through the coming Messiah whose kingdom would be spiritual and last forever.



A Branch from the Stump of Jesse Will Bear Fruit

Isaiah 11:1-9

¹A 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.



The wondrous light
 prophesied by Isaiah is
 Jesus. God's people
 waited thousands of
 years for the Savior as
 his people wait for
 Jesus' second coming.

Choir

Morning of Promise

Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin

*The people who in darkness walked will see a wondrous light.
 For morning gilds the sky with gold and shines away the night.
 For morning gilds the sky with gold and shines away the night.*

*For many years the stars were dim, the candles burning low.
 See now the time is drawing near, and hearts are filled with hope.
 See now the time is drawing near, and hearts are filled with hope.*

*Veni, * veni. Come, O come, Emmanuel.
 Veni, veni. Come, O come, come, O come. Come, Emmanuel, come.*

*Let joyful music awake the dawn, let alleluias soar.
 Proclaim to the world a joyful song, the coming of the Lord.
 Proclaim to the world a joyful song, the coming of the Lord.*

*Veni, veni. Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
 Veni, veni. Come, O come, come, O come. Come, Emmanuel, come.
 Come, Emmanuel, come!*

*Veni: Come. (Latin)



The Angel Gabriel Announces to Mary the Birth of a Son

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



God could have initiated the climax of his plan in some stunning manner. But he chose a humble virgin. Along with Mary we might say, "Why?" But along with Mary we humbly accept God's plan and marvel at it.

Duet

Holy Is Your Name (CWH956)
Congregation joins for final refrain

My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God, my Savior.

You have looked upon your servant, you have visited your people. (Refrain)

Refrain:

And holy is your name through all generations!

*Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen,
and holy is your name.*

*I am lowly as a child, but I know from this day forward
that my name will be remembered,
and the world will call me blessed. (Refrain)*

*I proclaim your pow'r, O God! You work wonders for your servants;
you have scattered the proudhearted, you have lifted up the lowly. (Refrain)*

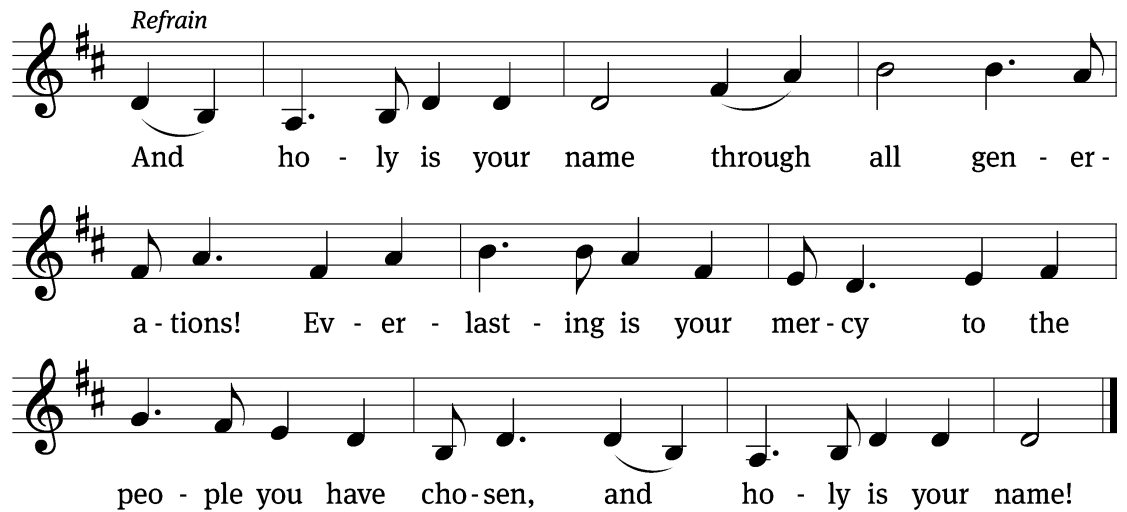
*To the hungry you give food, send the rich away with nothing.
In your mercy you are mindful of the people you have chosen. (Refrain)*

*In your love you now fulfill all you promised to your people.
I will praise you, God, my Savior, everlasting is your mercy.*



This hymn of praise is based on the Luke 1:46-55 reading. Mary magnifies God for his mercy, and faithfulness, recognizing God's power to lift the humble, fulfilling promises to Israel through the coming Messiah, Jesus.

Congregation sings:



Text: anonymous, alt. Tune: Scottish Text and tune: Public domain



God's promises and love proved faithful. He sent his Son into this world just as he said he would, to do the work that only he could do. We now read the familiar and beloved Christmas account.



St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

M: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

C: And everyone went to their own town to register.

M: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

C: He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

M: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.

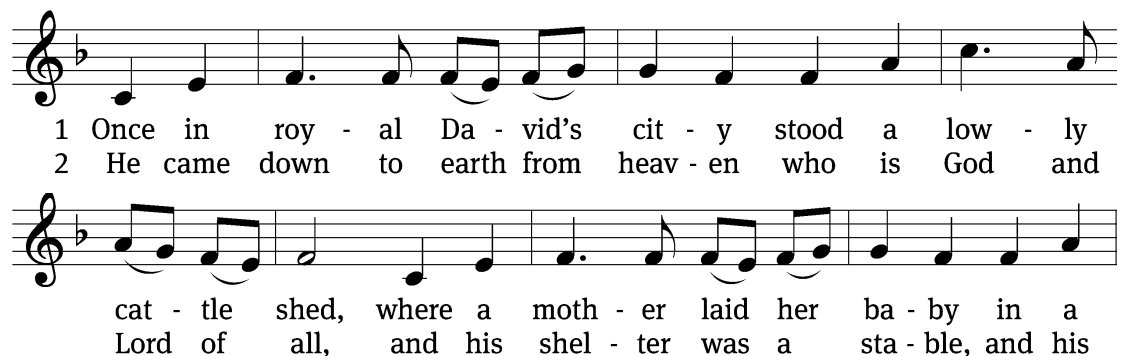
C: She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

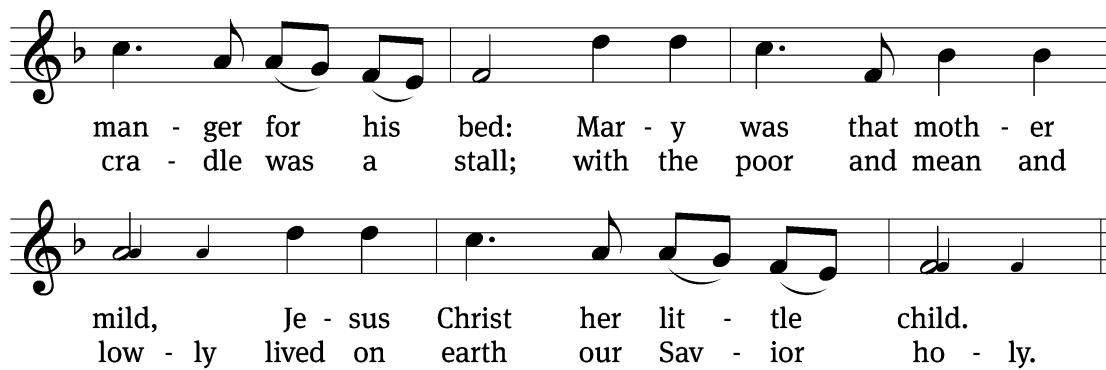
Carol: Once in Royal David's City

CWH 343



This hymn reminds us that the helpless babe laying in a cattle trough is God almighty come to save us.





Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, abr., alt. Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876 Text and tune: Public domain

Christmas Message

“God’s Final Word”

Hebrews 1:1-9

¹In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;

today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,

and he will be my Son”?

⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,

and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;

a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions

by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

In the Pastor’s message, he proclaims God’s Word and applies that word to modern life and problems. He stresses both what God demands of us (the Law) and what God does for us through Jesus Christ (the Gospel).

3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -
 4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en

deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our
 stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at

Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren
 God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren

on to the place where he is gone.
 crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, abr., alt. Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876 Text and tune: Public domain



The angels couldn't help but celebrate God's gift. The shepherds eagerly spread the word of this gift as announced by the angels.



The Angels Bring the Good News to the Shepherds

Luke 2:8–14

M: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

C: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

M: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

C: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

M: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

C: “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”



The awesome events that occurred around the birth of Jesus undoubtedly caused fears - to Mary visited by the Angel Gabriel, and to the shepherds, visited by the angels that filled the sky. We too should not fear. God loved the world and sent his son. Those who believe have the certainty of eternal life in heaven.

*Humble virgin, arise and take heart, you've been chosen to carry a son.
Give no heed to the trembling inside, for the wonder has only begun.
Do not fear, do not fear.
The child you will hold is the Savior foretold drawing near.
Do not fear.*

*Lowly shepherds, look up and take heart, see the glory of heaven burn bright.
Hear the anthem of joy and good news. Hope has dawned in a stable tonight.
Do not fear, do not fear.
The child in the hay is the Ancient of Days drawing near.
Do not fear. Oh, do not fear.*

*Weary children, be still and take heart. Every longing you feel is a cry
for the rest he has offered to all. Come to him, for his burden is light.
Do not fear, do not fear.
The God who redeems you and ever will keep you is near.
Do not fear, do not fear.
The God who redeems you and ever will keep you is near.
Do not fear. Do not fear.*



The Shepherds Go to the Manger *Luke 2:15-20*



The shepherds rushed to see the gift as announced by the angels. Like the shepherds, we bow our knees and worship Jesus, God's great gift.

M: 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."

C: **So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.**

M: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

C: **But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.**



Jesus, the "Everlasting Light," came to a small, seemingly insignificant town, fulfilling ancient prophecies and bringing hope to the world as a humble baby. God's angels invited the lowly shepherds to be the first worshippers of Jesus, the long-awaited Savior.

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

CWH 333

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

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.

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,

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.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908 Text and tune: Public domain



Magi from the east were the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshiping Jesus as King.



The Magi Are Led by the Star to Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 for out of you will come a ruler
 who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.
¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Carol: What Child Is This?

CWH 344



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 - en now 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, 1837–1898, alt. Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain



*God sent his Son for
 lowly shepherds living
 in the countryside of
 Judah, for kings that
 traveled from faraway
 countries, and for us
 gathered here this
 Christmas Eve. We are
 all invited to worship
 Jesus who saved us all.*



The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling
among us.



St. John Unfolds the Great Mystery of the Incarnation

John 1:1–14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Choir

Our Messiah's Birth
Arranged by Megan H Morgan



Knowing that God
loved us and sent us
Jesus, our redeemer
should fill our hearts
with joy. As the angels
proclaimed, this is
“news of great joy”.

*Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Isreal's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

*On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy news of great mirth; news of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should men on earth be sad since our Redeemer made us glad.
Then why should men on earth be sad since our Redeemer made us glad.
When from our sin he set us free all for to gain our liberty?*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing.

Glory to God and peace to men now and forever more, amen. Amen. Amen.

Candle Lighting

Candles will be lit during this time. The minister will light his candle from the Christ Candle and light the candles of the ushers who will then light the candles of those seated on the end of each aisle. Each individual in each row will light the candle of the person next to them. The unlit candle should be tipped towards the vertical lit candle to avoid dripping wax.



Carol: Silent Night. Holy Night

CWH 337



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: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848
Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863 Text and tune: Public domain



This beloved carol was first heard at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Germany on Christmas Eve, 1818. The simple melody and lyrics remind us of the true peace Jesus brings.

Blessing

(Spoken by Minister)

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.



This blessing embodies the Christmas joy we experience knowing the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation through Christ who dwelt among us.



This French carol was first named *Cantique de Noël* in 1847 and expresses the joy that God descended to us to erase the stain of sin.

The second verse written by a modern hymnist includes the gospel message of the original French lyrics.

Ensemble

O Holy Night

Original Words (Vs. 1) by Placide Cappeau

Add. words (Vs. 2) by Kevin Hartnett

© 2014 Sovereign Grace Worship, used by permission

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of our dear Savior's birth.*

*Long lay the world, in sin and error pining,
till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.*

*A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices.
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night divine, O night, O night divine!*

*In towering grace, he laid aside his glory,
and in our place, was sacrificed for sin.*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the gospel story!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night divine, O night, O night divine!*

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

All rights reserved. These and all other sources are used by permission under One License.net License # A-711716 and/or CCLI License # 1852086 and # CSPL136078 (Video).



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

10111 W Jomax Road

Peoria, AZ 85383

The continuing purpose of this congregation as a gathering of Christians is to spread to all people in God's world the glory of the cross of Christ, by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.