

Light

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.*

—SILENT NIGHT



I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. JOHN 8:12

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Our mission is to invite people to know Jesus Christ so that we may all share God's love.

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel!

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

We pray that this Holy Night brings Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and the Light of Christ our Savior into your hearts and homes.

If you are a visitor, please sign your name in our guest book in the narthex.

The Lord's Supper, (offered on the 1st Sunday of the month) Holy Communion is a means of God's grace whereby the real presence of Christ is offered.

If you would rather receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please come forward and cross your arms to your shoulders as indication of wanting a blessing.

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

Offering envelopes are located and available on the table in the entry.

Offerings received tonight will be designated for World Hunger Relief.

Christmas Eve Worship Assistants - December 24, 2025

Minister: Marcia Buchs

Greeters: Terry and Kay Bose

Lay Reader: Mike Petersen

Ushers and Acolytes: Dan Harms Family

Communion: Denny & Amy Winterland

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

www.immanuellutherancolfax.org

Christmas Eve - The Nativity of Our Lord

PRELUDE

Messiah Medley

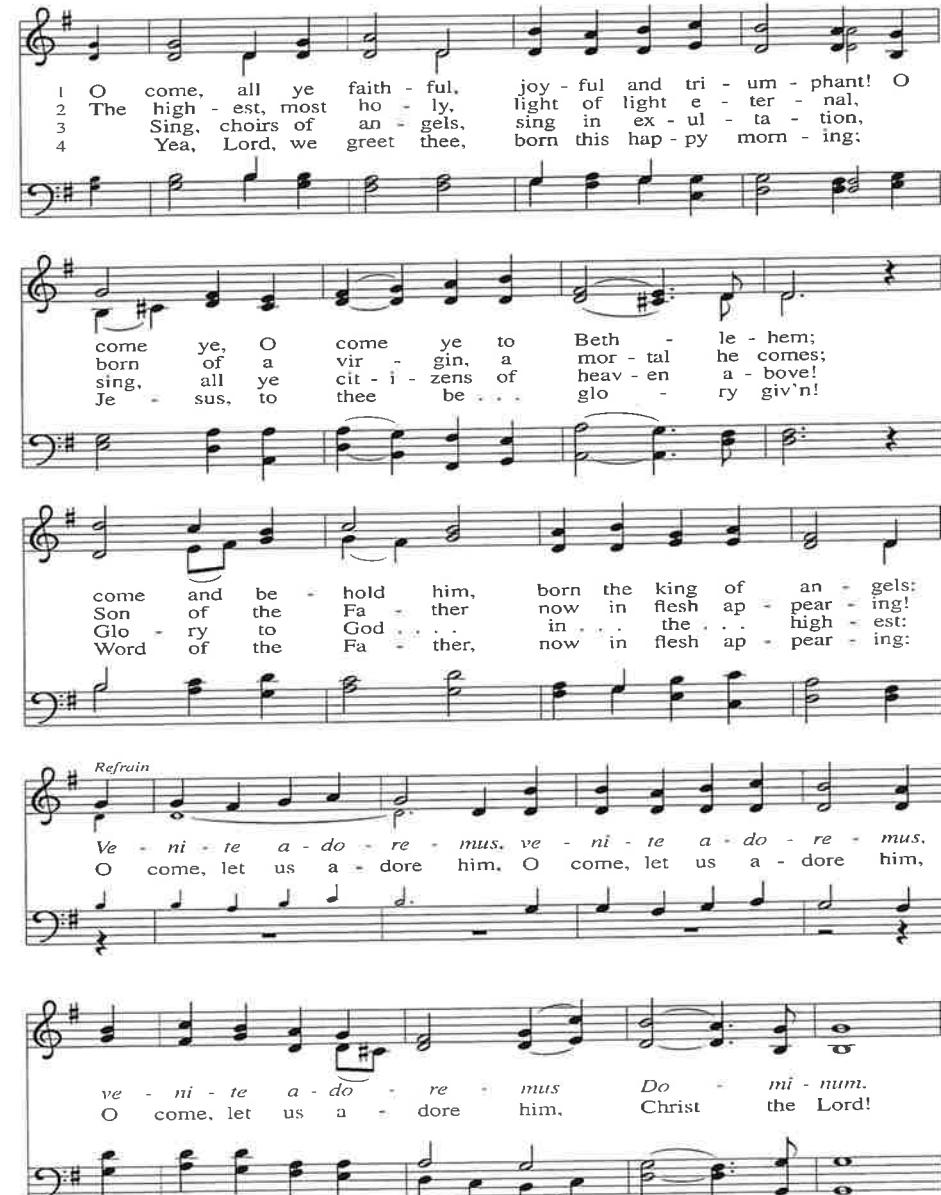
Kimberly Petersen, Organ

Cindy Wilson, Piano

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283



**Congregation may remain seated or stand as you are able*

***CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the worship leader begins

M: Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

M: Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.

We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

M: God's grace upon grace flows over you. [☩] Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

***GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

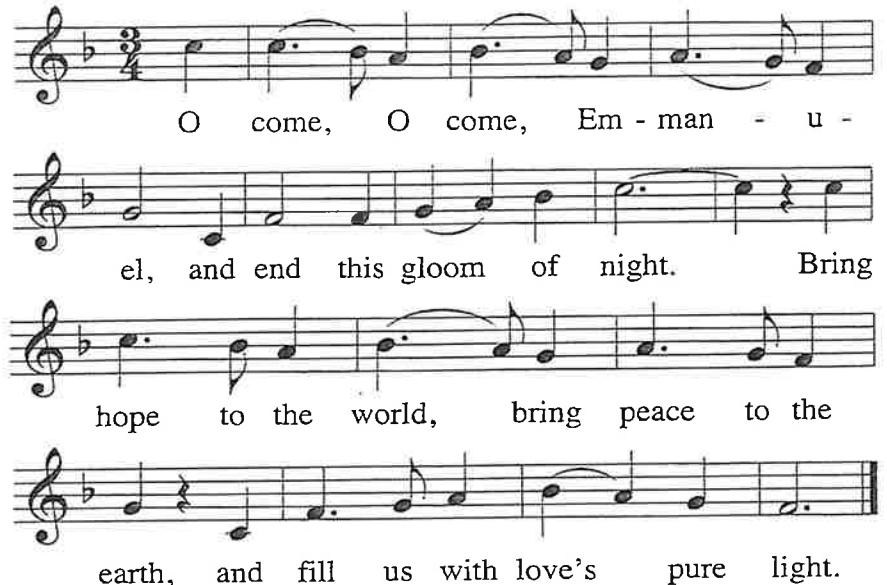
M: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Congregation may be seated.

Love's Pure Light - Candle Lighting Ceremony

Immanuel Choir with Congregational Singing and Responsive Litany



O come, O come, Emmanuel - u - el, and end this gloom of night. Bring hope to the world, bring peace to the earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

L: For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting hope.

L: For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace.

L: For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting joy.

L: For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Candle Lighting

L: Tonight we light all the candles as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The candles of hope, peace, love, and joy all remind us that Christ is our light and the source of eternal hope, everlasting peace, boundless love, and endless joy. The Christ candle reminds us that God's perfect gift was sent to us that we might have life abundant and everlasting. Joy to the world and peace on earth. Let us worship Christ, the newborn King.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

L: Gracious God, tonight as we gather together to conclude our Advent journey, we celebrate that a new light has dawned. A child is born and that child is our light and the source of our joy. He brings hope into the world, and the promise of peace on earth. He is love incarnate, love divine, and we thank you dear Lord for this, the most perfect gift imaginable.

C: Joy to the world! Christ is born! Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

How Quietly

Immanuel Choir

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied your people, you have increased their joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His 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 on and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.

You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

M: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter. C: Glory to you O Lord.

*GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

¹In 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.

The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HOMILY

Minister Marcia Buchs

HYMN

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

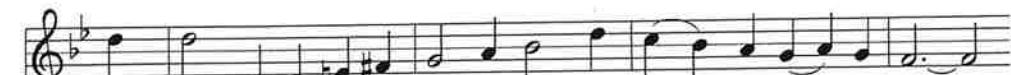
ELW 282



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 And you, be -neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has -t'ning on, 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 the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time 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 now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



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.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

*APOSTLE'S CREED *Please stand as you are able*

ELW page 104

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

WE GATHER OUR OFFERINGS for World Hunger

Congregation may be seated

*OFFERING SONG *Please stand as you are able.*

Away in a Manger

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

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

*OFFERING PRAYER

M: Let us pray... God of glory,

C: great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of
the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESION

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

A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together
before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we
rejoice in the news of your coming.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with
the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on
this holy night.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our
hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and
turn swords into plowshares.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us
into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those
who are sick or struggling.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing
ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially
for youth seeking safety and care.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn
hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O
God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our
Savior. **Amen.**

*CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION *Please stand as you are able*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

M: The Lord be with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

M: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

M: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

M: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.

Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

M: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

M: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

M: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!
Congregation may be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table. The inner circle of cups contain grape juice, the rest are wine. The Common Cup also contains wine. Please follow the directions of the ushers and allow them to be of assistance if needed.

COMMUNION HYMNS

What Child is This

ELW 296

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the 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!

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

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-dring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

HYMN

The First Noel

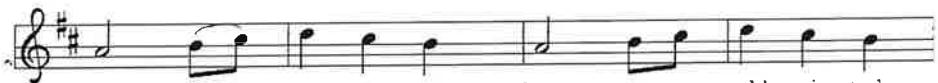
ELW 300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - cd up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that same star three . . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men threc, full . . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men camc . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

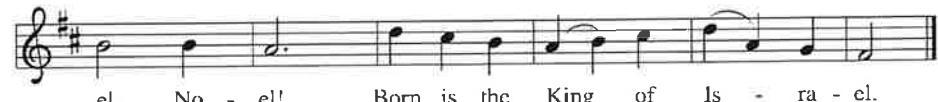


they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star wher - ev - er it went.
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

M: God our redeemer,

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

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The minister lights a candle from the altar candles, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. Assistants light their candles from the minister's candle and then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is held upright when giving light to another. Please leave candles lit until after the Blessing.

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

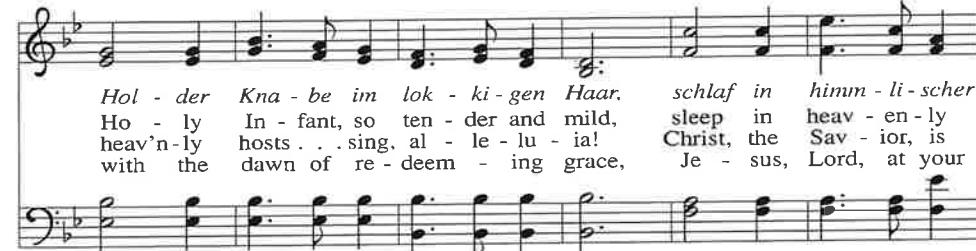
ELW 281



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 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,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 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 your ho - ly face,



Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 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 your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

M: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. C: Amen.

*Please extinguish your candles with caution, keeping it upright until the wax cools.
After worship, deposit candles in the boxes at the end of the pews.*

Please stand as you are able

*HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him
2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all the world in songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns in - ceive her king; let every heart prepare him
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

*DISMISSAL

M: Glory to God in the highest! C: And peace to God's people on earth!
M: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV

Nativity Word Scramble

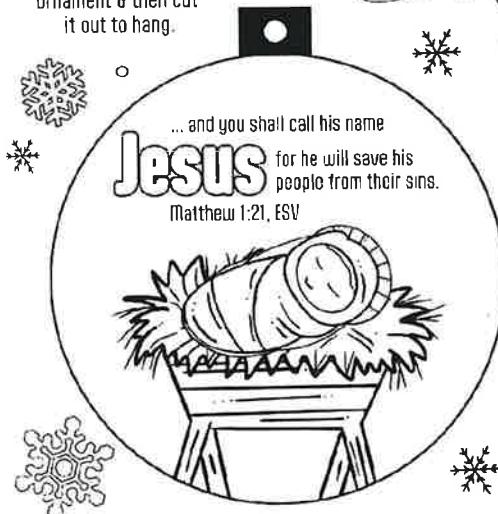
STBALE _____
HEEPS _____
NLGEA _____
TSAR _____
GAMREN _____
JHPOES _____
OENYDK _____
EUSSJ _____
SHNGI _____
YMAR _____

Word Search

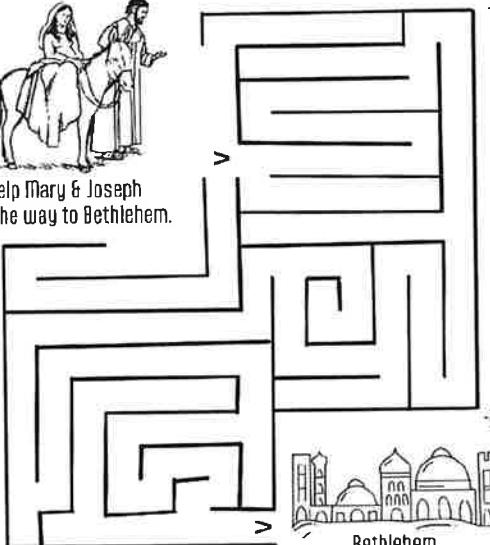
H	R	L	Y	V	E	L	A	B
O	B	L	E	S	S	O	A	R
L	R	G	I	F	T	V	S	A
Y	E	G	F	P	S	E	B	T
J	O	Y	A	T	R	E	B	S

JOY, LOVE, GIFT, HOLY, BLESS, STAR

Color the Christmas
ornament & then cut
it out to hang.



Help Mary & Joseph
find the way to Bethlehem.



Bethlehem

Merry Christmas

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