

Introducing the Readings

No two words better capture the heart and spirit of the Christmas message than these: “**for you.**” The angel comes to the shepherds (and us) and declares: “This will be a sign **for you.**” Notice it’s not just that Jesus is born, but the angels say, “Jesus is born **for you.**” And it’s not just “good news,” in general, but the angel makes clear it’s “good news of great joy **for you** and all people!”

Much later Jesus was to say to his disciples (and to us) at his last supper: “This is my body, given **for you.**” While the Gospel is never a private word, it is nevertheless a very personal word, reminding each and every one of us that God believes we are worthy of honor and dignity and, above all else, worthy of Divine love – love given **for you!**

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

4:00pm Preservice Music, 7:00pm Bell Choir

Welcome

Christmas Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the bright light of God’s forgiveness.

Silent reflection and examination

Mary accepted God’s call to be the mother of Jesus.

Heavenly Father, forgive our lack of trust when you call us.

The Son of God, was born in the poverty of a stable.

Gracious God, forgive our neglect of the poor.

The first announcement of this holy birth was to humble shepherds.

Merciful Lord, forgive our sense of self-importance.

The magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

O God, forgive our neglect to keep the Sabbath holy and adore you on bended knee.

The angel said, "You shall call his name Jesus
for he will save his people from their sin."

With great joy, I echo the angel's greeting,
announcing to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

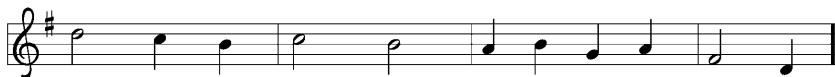
Gathering Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Greeting

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

O come let us adore him!

May the light and peace of Christ the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Beloved in Christ, we are gathered together on this Christmas Eve to meditate upon the mystery of that holiest of nights – the night when our deepest hopes were realized, the night when the darkness of sin was overcome the night on which the light of God was borne in the infant child of Mary.

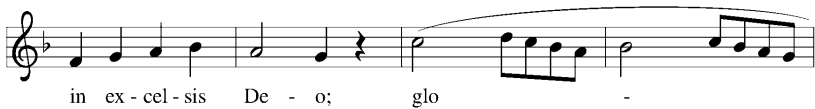
Hymn of Praise “Angels We Have Heard on High” No. 289



- 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.



Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

7:00pm Service Choir "The Angels are Singing"

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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 the nation, you have increased its 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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due God's 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: "It is the Lord who is king!
The one made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
it is he who 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.

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 Savior, 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.

4:00pm & 7:00pm Service *We sing! "Away in a Manger"

Hymn 278 v.1-2

(Children enter at the 4:00 pm Service)

**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.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

P: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

4:00pm Service (4:00 pm Children's Presentation)

4:00pm & 7:00pm Service *the Christ candle is lit*

**We sing! "Away in a Manger" Hymn 278 v.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.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

**We sing! “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Hymn 270 v.1*

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."**

**Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

***Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

When 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.”

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

**We sing! “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Hymn 270 v.2*

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.**

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

***Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

Sermon: “Signs in the Straw”

Hymn of the Day "Love Has Come"

No. 292



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



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



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



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

Nicene Creed

Together with the whole church,
we confess the faith given birth to us in our baptism.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife unsettling this world. Hush the noise of war in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting.

Especially those we name either silently or aloud. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families with your love and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed, especially those who have gently guided us in the faith. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Presentation of Gifts *We sing! "What Feast of Love"

Hymn 487 v.1

**What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?**

**What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?**

**This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.**

**Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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:

**We sing! "What Feast of Love" Hymn 487 v.2*

**What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!**

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

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

Love has come: God's love for all people.

Thanks be to God.

**We sing! "What Feast of Love" Hymn 487 v.3*

**What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?**

**What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?**

**This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.**

**Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!**

The Holy Communion

*This is the Lord's Supper
Christ's invitation is all you need*

Special Music

"Breath of Heaven(Mary's Song)" Performed by Amy Grant

"He Shall Reign Forevermore" Performed by Chris Tomlin

Prayer after Communion

Emmanuel, God with us,
you grace us with life and breath
and give us bread for the journey.
Send us out in service to this world that you love,
telling the amazing news of your coming
to be Savior and Lord of all.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sharing of the Light of Christ

*From the "Christ Candle" in the center of the Advent Wreath,
the light signifying Christ's presence is shared.*

Isaiah preached: "Arise! Shine! For your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." *(Isaiah 60:1)*

**Jesus said: “I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.”**

(John 8:12)

**When everyone’s candles have been lit, we sing!*

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

No. 281

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
with the obedience of Joseph, with the joy of the angels,
and with the peace of the Holy Christ Child.
Amen.

Sending Carol “Joy to the World”

No. 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



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

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Poinsettias In Memory of:

Luther & Kathleen Horner, Jenneal Crowley

by *Albert & Cindy Buday*

Eva Eschrich by *Bill Eschrich*

Grandparents of Mike & Ashley Kozak by *Mike & Ashley Kozak*

Ray & Gwen Curley, Lousie & Delmar Leap

by *Tom & Dianne Leap*

Zakary Lonsinger & Linda McQuaide

By *Bill, Cara, Kyle & Joran Lonsinger*

Zakary Lonsinger & Linda McQuaide by *Mark & Shari McQuaide*

Linda McQuaide, Dame Middleton, Zac Lonsinger

by *Stan McQuaide*

Charles & Rae Petriska, Martha Moyer, June, Eremeato

by *Tim & Kerri Moyer*

Michael & Pauline Nider by *Jeff & Phyllis Nider*

Paul & Ann Kormanik by *Jeff & Phyllis Nider*

Denise Hayes & Bonnie Penrod by *Jeff & Sue Penrod*

Mary P. Read & A.M. Read by *Nancie M. Read*

Rev. Bob Kaltenbaugh, Nancy Lindeberg by *Shannon Reed*

Glenn A. & Laverne M. Trent by *Joyce & Brittany Spangler*

Paul Swartz

by *Chris, Gayle & Swartz family, Wendy Mayket & family*

Loyd & Wilma Gindlesperger by *Beverly Tallyen*

Stan & Kayleight Tallyen by *Beverly Tallyen*

Poinsettias In Honor of:

Grandparents of Elias & Gabriel Kozak by *Mike & Ashley Kozak*
Family by *Bill & Jan Layton*

Owen, Maxson, Ella, Charlotte, Olivia, Grayson, Carter
by *Tom & Dianne Leap*

McQuaide & Middleton children & grandchildren
by *Stan McQuaide*

Children & grandchildren by *Gale Swartz*

World Hunger in memory of:

Luther & Kathleen Horner, Jenneal Crowley
by *Albert & Cindy Buday*

Oscar Eschrich by *Bill Eschrich*

Loved ones by *David & Vicki Karnes*

Departed loved ones from the Layton family by *Bill & Jan Layton*

Parents by *Jerry & Ruth Pozun*

Rev. Ron Reed by *Gloria, Shannon, Justin & Kate Reed*

Loved ones by *Dick & Lois Sholtis*

World Hunger in honor of:

Our Parents & Grandparents by *Jamie & Katie McMullen*

Children & Grandchildren by *Jerry & Ruth Pozun*

Shannon, Justin & Kate by *Gloria Reed*

Our children & grandchildren by *Dick & Lois Sholtis*

