



**SAINT MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Nativity of our Lord**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2025**

**THE DAY** *Perhaps we can relate with the people of God in the times of Isaiah, who walked in darkness and who dwelt in a land of deep darkness. Yet on them and on us, light has shone, and we have seen this great light. For to us a child is born! The angels come in light in today's gospel to reveal the birth of this child to shepherds out in the field. Friends in Christ, this light, this Christ child, has come to each of us as well, and the good news of great joy the angels share is good news for all the world, for the light of the world has come. This night we sing and worship. We celebrate and pay homage to the newborn king. We hold candles remembering his light, and remembering the incredible gift that his light shines in us, and in each other. So as we hold candles later in the service tonight, glance to your neighbors, your brothers and sisters around you, and see the light of Christ in your midst, the light that also comes to you.*

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH Saint Martin Choir  
O HOLY NIGHT Leslie and Andrew Kollmeyer, piano/violin  
GREENSLEEVES Leslie and Andrew Kollmeyer, piano/violin  
LULAJŽIE, JEZUNIU Rita Mathsen; Leslie Kollmeyer  
SHEPHERD'S PIPE CAROL Saint Martin Choir

*Stand*

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSiON AND GOOD NEWS**

**P** He was named Jesus, for he saves his people from their sins. Gathered in the name of Christ Jesus, let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

**C** **Gracious God, in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome and follow his**

**light. Forgive us and renew our sense of hope, peace, joy, and love, to live more fully in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord.**

**P** I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord; in him our sins are forgiven.

**C** Amen

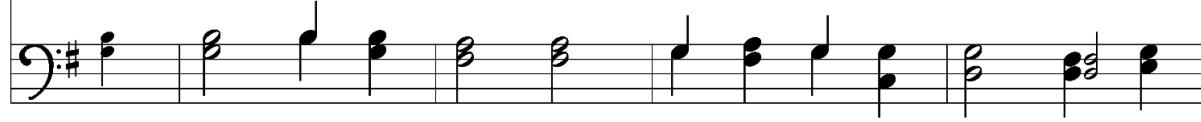
**ENTRANCE HYMN**

**O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**ELW #283**



1 O come, all ye faithful, 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!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light, our Lord Emmanuel. 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

*Sit*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Beatty

## FIRST LESSON

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

## ISAIAH 9:2-7

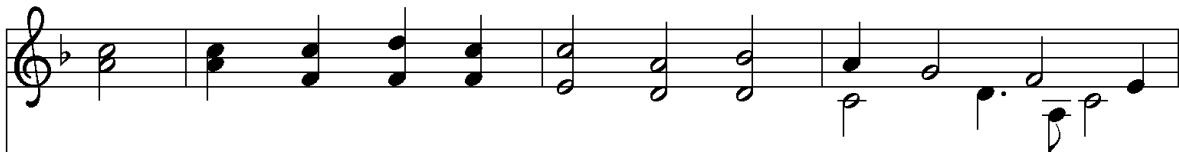
<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

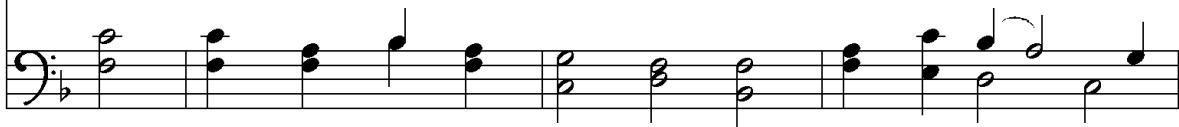
## CAROL

## LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

ELW #272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grace ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.



## SECOND LESSON

## TITUS 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

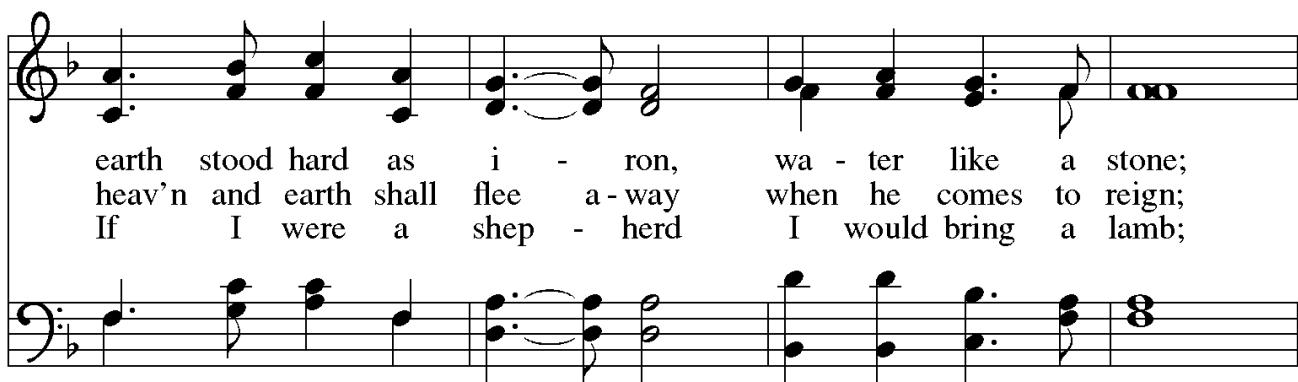
## CAROL

### IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

ELW #294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

Music notation for the first part of the hymn. The top staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are:

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

Music notation for the second part of the hymn. The top staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are:

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

## CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

## LUKE 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## CAROL

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

## ELW #270

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

*Refrain*

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

*Stand*

## CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

LUKE 2: 8-14

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

*Sit*

SERMON

“Good News of Great Joy”

Pastor Beatty

*Stand*

## CAROL

## IT CAME UPON THE 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.



## INTERCESSIONS OF THE CHURCH

**P/A** *Lord in Your Mercy*      **C** *hear our prayer.*

**P** Rejoicing in the splendor and majesty, the strength and beauty of Immanuel, God-With-Us, let us pray for the church, all creation, and all who yearn for salvation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** For the One, Holy, Catholic, and apostolic church, for its leaders that they boldly and fearlessly declare the good news of the Savior born into the world. We pray,

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the leaders of nations, especially for our President, Donald, our governor Brian, and for all of our elected leaders, that their governing may reflect the peace, justice, and righteousness of the child born Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. We pray,

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For all who serve in our armed forces and are far away from home during this festive season, for our enemies, and for all victims of violence and war, that their lives may be touched by the Prince of Peace. We pray,

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For those who are sick, hospitalized, or suffering in any way, especially those named in our in our bulletin and those we name before you now (*pause count to 10*) that the abiding love of Jesus may be their comfort and health. We pray,

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For those for whom this time of year brings depression, sadness, and grief, that in the midst of their deep darkness, the ever-shining light of Christ may renew their joy and gladness. We pray,

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For all who travel, that they may arrive safely at their destinations, we pray,

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For this holy assembly, that renouncing worldly passions and awaiting Christ's return, we may not lose heart, but be zealous for good works. We pray,

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** In remembrance of those who have lived and died abiding in the splendor and glory, the love and peace of Immanuel, God-With-Us, that we too, may rejoice with them in the arms of our Everlasting Father, we pray,

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Exulting in the birth of our Savior, abiding in His love, and looking forward to his coming again, we entrust all for whom we pray to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

## PEACE

**P** Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and he will be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Sit*

## **TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*The gifts of tithes and offerings are collected, the ministers make ready the bread and wine.*

*Stand*

## **OFFERTORY**

### **ANTHEM**

MARY DID YOU KNOW

*Mark Hayes*

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**A** Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace to all people. Receive now these gifts that we bring, and may the works of our hands proclaim the news of your redeeming love in Jesus Christ throughout the world.

**C** Amen

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P** Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, in the beginning your Word brought light into the whole world. In the fullness of time you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.”

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await with joy his coming again.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** 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.**

*Sit*

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

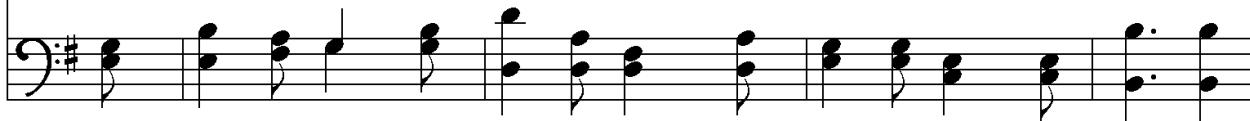
**DISTRIBUTION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

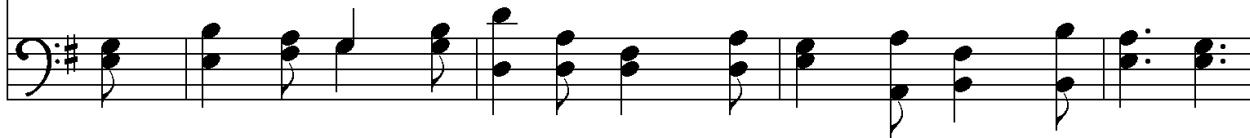
WHAT CHILD IS THIS **ELW#296**

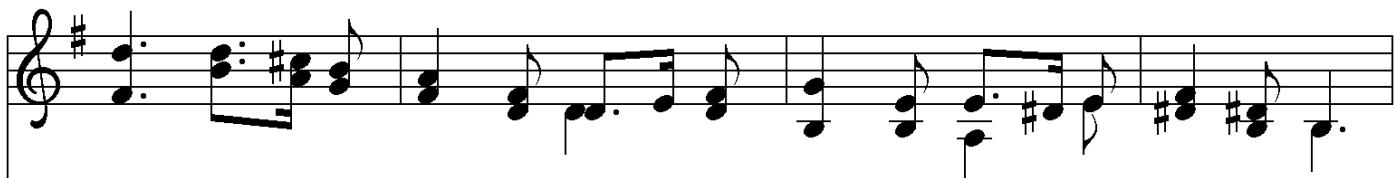


1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

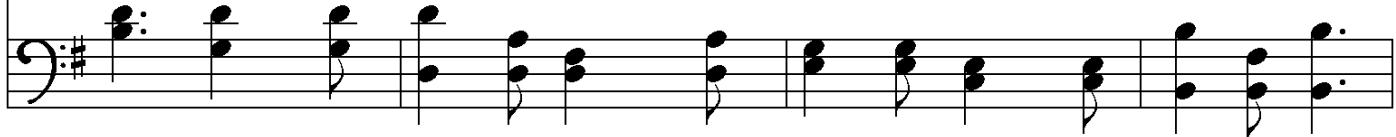


Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

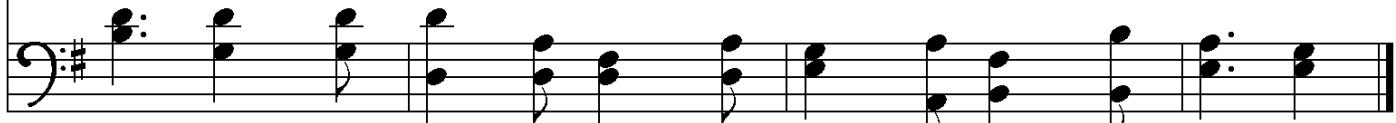




This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



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!



AWAY IN A MANGER ELW#277

Music for the first stanza. Treble clef, B-flat key signature, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

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 me for -

Music for the second stanza. Treble clef, B-flat key signature, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

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

Music for the third stanza. Treble clef, B-flat key signature, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

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.

Music for the fourth stanza. Treble clef, B-flat key signature, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

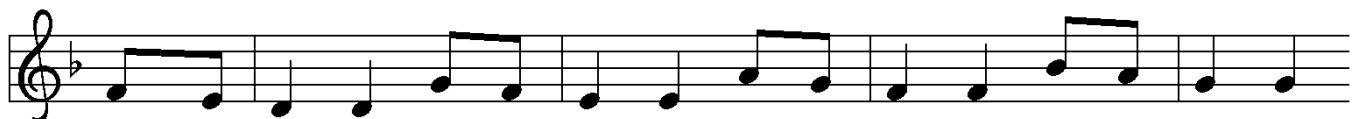
## INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY ELW#276



1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring-ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

### *Stand*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.  
**C** Amen

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. Gracious God, in the incarnation of your Son, Emmanuel, you have united heaven and earth. May we who have tasted heavenly things share the gift of your presence with all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** Amen

# CANDLE PREPARATION AND LIGHTING

## POST-COMMUNION CAROL

## SILENT 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.

## BENEDICTION

**P** I bring you good news of great joy for all people! For a child has been born for us, a son given to us, and he is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel. So may God With Us; the Father, Son **+**, and Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you this holy night and forever.

**C** Amen

## SENDING HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD  
William Roberts, Trumpet

ELW #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,  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy,  
 flow far as the curse is found,  
 ness and won - ders of his love,  
  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,  
  
 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.  
  
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

## DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace to share the Good News that Jesus the Savior is born!
- C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**