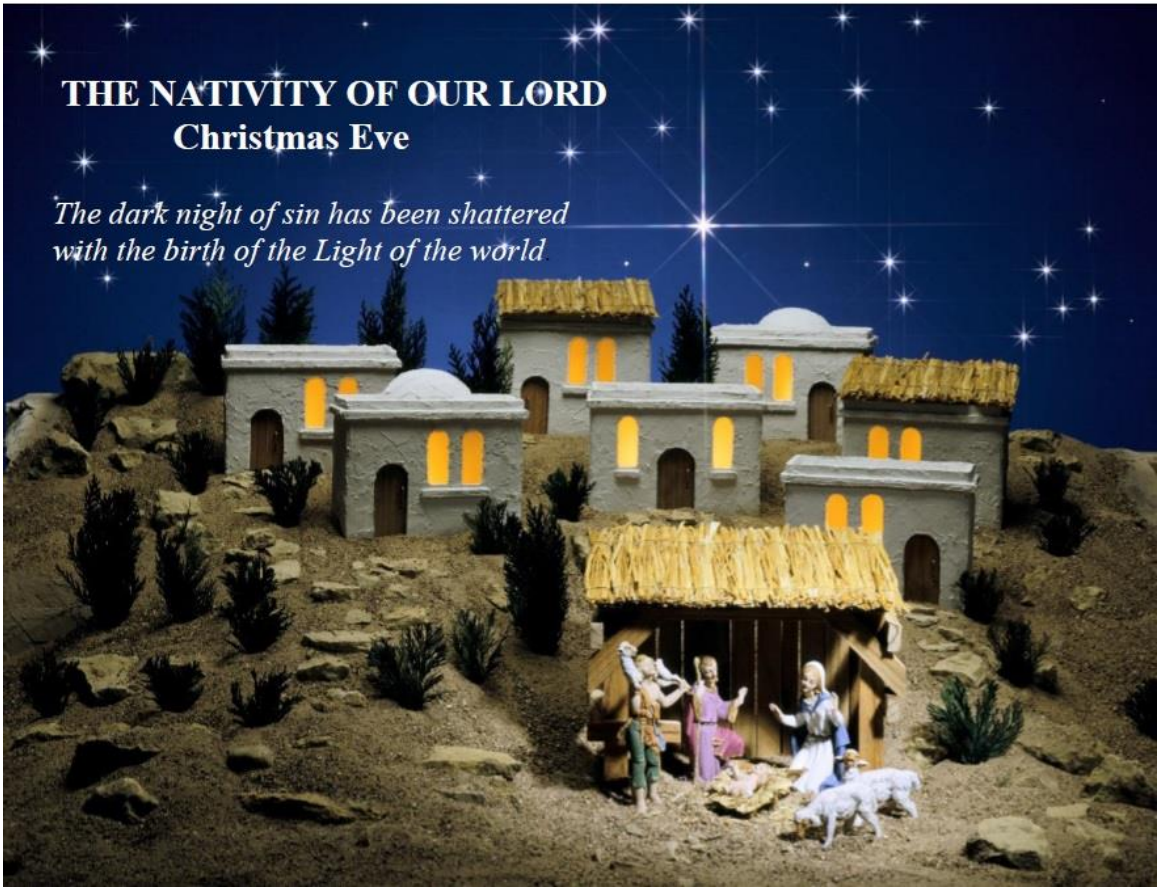


**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**Christmas Eve**

*The dark night of sin has been shattered  
with the birth of the Light of the world*



# SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

## 376 Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** As we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth, let us also remember the reason this holy Child was born: "He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself." *Hebrews 9:26*

- C** We confess that we have sinned against God and against one another. We are powerless to undo the entangled mess of sin in our lives. We yearn for peace with God and reconciliation with one another, yet we cannot accomplish it ourselves. Forgive us, Lord, and restore our souls, that our lives reflect not our sin, but the joy of the birth of Your only Son into the world.
- P** Jesus is Immanuel, God-with-us. What we are powerless to do, He has done for us. His name is Jesus. He has come to save us from our sins. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## EIGHT LESSONS AND CAROLS

### First Reading

*Numbers 24:15–17a*

<sup>15</sup>And he took up his discourse and said,

“The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor,  
 the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,  
<sup>16</sup>the oracle of him who hears the words of God,  
 and knows the knowledge of the Most High,  
 who sees the vision of the Almighty,  
 falling down with his eyes uncovered:  
<sup>17</sup>I see him, but not now;  
 I behold him, but not near:  
 a star shall come out of Jacob,  
 and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;  
 it shall crush the forehead of Moab  
 and break down all the sons of Sheth.

## 349 Hark the glad sound!



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Second Reading

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

<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 shined.

<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.

## 396 Arise and Shine in Splendor



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -  
 2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, The hea - then na - tions  
 3 The world's re - mot - est rac - es, Up - on whose wea - ry  
 4 Lift up your eyes in won - der— See, na - tions gath - er  
 5 Your heart will leap for glad - ness When from the realms of



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove, the  
 dy - ing In hope - less gloom and night. To you the  
 fac - es The sun looks from the sky, Shall run with  
 yon - der From sin to be set free. The world has  
 sad - ness They come from near and far. Your eyes will



day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty  
 Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope— has  
 zeal un - tir - ing, With joy Your light de -  
 heard Your sto - ry; Her sons come to Your  
 wake from slum - ber As peo - ple with - out



gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.  
 giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.  
 sir - ing That breaks up - on them from on high.  
 glo - ry; Her daugh - ters haste Your light to see.  
 num - ber Re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Tune: Public domain

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## Third Reading

*Isaiah 11:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—  
of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

## 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance 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 proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Fourth Reading

*Micah 5:2-4*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
 from you shall come forth for me  
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
 whose origin is from of old,  
 from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
 when she who is in labor has given birth;  
 then the rest of his brothers shall return  
 to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
 And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
 to the ends of the earth.

## 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



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 - d'ring 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.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!



## Fifth Reading

*1 John 4:7–16*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

## 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
 △ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

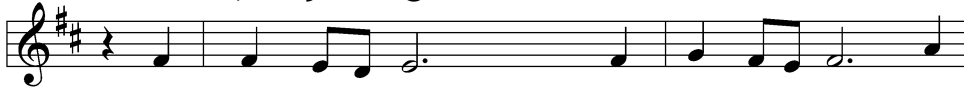
Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; (sts. 1-4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821-77  
 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sixth Reading

*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.

## 372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is



1 O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is My  
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey Doth  
 3 Thy light and grace Our guilt ef - face, Thy  
 4 Thou Chris - tian heart, Who - e'er thou art, Be



par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.  
 come to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.  
 heav'n - ly rich - es all our loss re - triev - ing,  
 of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee!



For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made  
 Thou, God's own Son, With us art one, Dost  
 Im - man - u - el, Thy birth doth quell The  
 For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild, Joins



flesh for us; here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.  
 join us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.  
 pow'r of hell and Sa - tan's bold de - ceiv - ing.  
 thee to Him; how great - ly God must love thee!

- 5 Remember thou  
 What glory now  
 The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.  
 The angel host  
 Can never boast  
 Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.
- 6 The world may hold  
 Her wealth and gold;  
 But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.  
 To Him hold fast  
 Until at last  
 A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Tune: Kenneth T. Kosche, 1947

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## Seventh Reading

*Matthew 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
 and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

## 364 Away in a Manger

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

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky \_\_\_\_\_ looked down where He lay,  
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Eighth Reading

*Luke 2:1–20*

<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.

<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 fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a 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!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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 ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.  
 Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon "Reign" Psalm 110:1-4 -

### *Resounding Psalms for Advent and Christmas*

#### Psalm 110:1-4

<sup>1</sup>*The LORD says to my Lord:*

*"Sit at my right hand,*

*until I make your enemies your footstool."*

<sup>2</sup>*The LORD sends forth from Zion*

*your mighty scepter.*

*Rule in the midst of your enemies!*

<sup>3</sup>*Your people will offer themselves freely*

*on the day of your power,*

*in holy garments;*

*from the womb of the morning,*

*the dew of your youth will be yours.*

<sup>4</sup>*The LORD has sworn*

*and will not change his mind,*

*"You are a priest forever*

*after the order of Melchizedek."*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

#### Prayer of the Church

**P** .... Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** .... one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



## Lord's Prayer

**P** 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.**

## Prayer

**P** O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

(Pastor lights a solitary candle from the Christ Candle and will light the candles of the ushers, who will light the candles of people sitting by the aisles. They in turn light those next to them, tipping unlit candles toward lit ones.)

## SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*(Please tip only the unlighted candles. Parents should determine if it is appropriate for their child to hold a lighted candle.)*

(After all candles are lit, the Lights are extinguished. The congregation joins in singing the hymn. You may keep your candle burning through the Blessing.)

## 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1–3

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.

Tune and text: Public domain

## The Blessing

- P** May Jesus 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 Almighty God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.
- C** Amen.

*Please extinguish your candle carefully to prevent wax from falling on you, your clothes. Again, use caution: the wax will be warm for several minutes.*

## 387 Joy to the World

sts. 1-3



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings



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



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.

Text and tune: Public domain

† **Glory to God in the Highest,**  
**and on Earth Peace, Good Will toward Men** †

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Thank you for joining us in worship this evening. May God bless your celebration of the Birth of our Saviour Jesus!

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St. Matthew's, Roblin and Grace, Zorra  
 are Member congregations of Lutheran Church Canada  
 Pastor Barry D. Wood

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