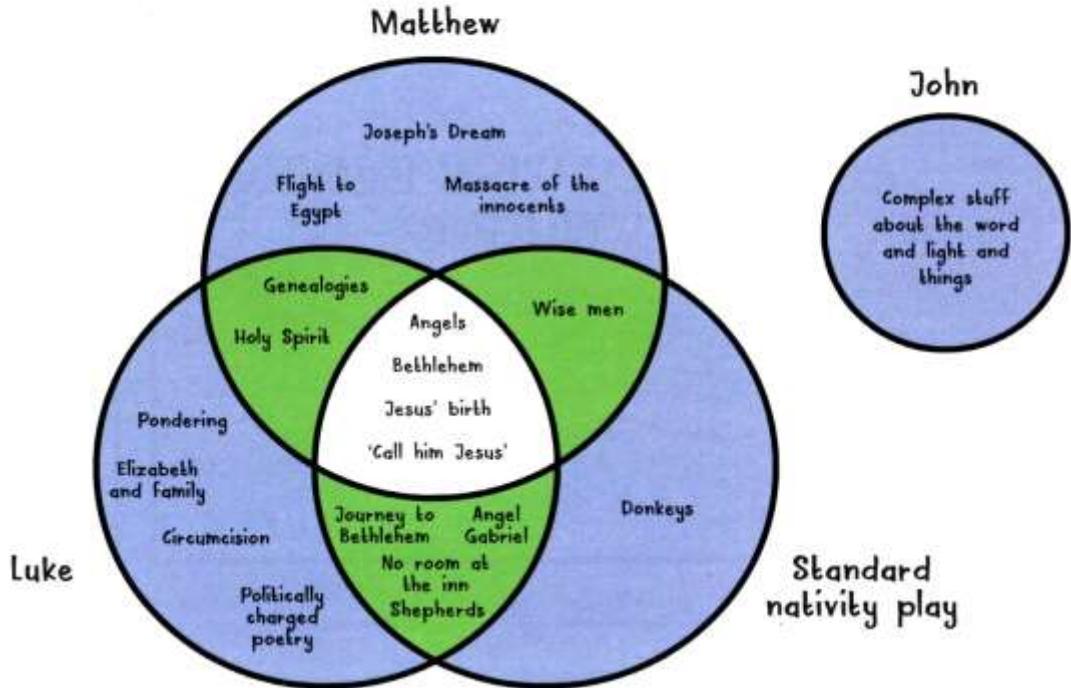


Midweek Advent & Christmas Eve Series Based on a drawing by Rich Wyld

# Theologygrams: Stories of Jesus' Birth



## Midweek Advent Worship - Wednesday, December 11, 2019

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### **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 - (847) 244-9647

**Pastor Ben Squires**

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**Website:** [www.BethelGurnee.org](http://www.BethelGurnee.org)

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## ***WORSHIP SCHEDULE***

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,  
Mandi Diver – Choir/New Music Accompanist, David Ziegler - Handbell Director

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## ***WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS***

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

## ***NURSERY***

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

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## ***SERVING TODAY***

***Elders:*** David Ziegler  
***Comm/Asst. Elder:*** JJ Jones  
***Acolytes:*** Brooke Ratzburg, Kate Kruse  
***Lay Readers:*** Bob Souza, Jack Warneke, Linda Moran  
***Ushers:*** **OPEN, OPEN**  
***Greeters:*** The Hautzinger Family, Marie Hupp

## ***ADVENT PROPHETS***

*This service draws from readings often used for the weeks of Advent, the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth, and His Second Advent still to come.*

**Entrance Words and Invocation**

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

P: "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD.

C: **When He will fulfill the promise He made to all of His people.**

P: In those days and at that time

the LORD will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.

C: **That Branch is a son of David. That Branch is Jesus, the Son of God.**

P: The Branch shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C: **In those days the LORD's people will be saved and His Church will dwell securely.**

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

C: **The LORD is our righteousness.**

P: What does that name mean?

C: **We, His people, are righteous through His righteousness.**

**We are holy because He makes us holy through His Son.**

P: Let us remember our baptisms,

when the Lord became our righteousness...

in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen!**

**Opening Hymn**

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

## **Preparation for God's Word**

based on Malachi 3:1-7b

P: "Behold, I send my messenger

and he will prepare the way before me," says the Lord.

**C: This is John the Baptist who announced that the Messiah is Jesus.**

P: Shall we rejoice that the LORD has sent His messenger,  
that the Messiah Jesus has come into our midst?

**C: Yes, we shall rejoice; but our sin causes us to fear His coming.**

P: The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

**C: But who can endure the day of his coming,  
and who can stand when he appears?**

**For he is like a refiner's fire**

**burning away the worthless material in us.**

**He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,**

**and he will purify us from all our sin.**

P: And the LORD declares to you today

that His mercies are new every morning. He says:

"I the LORD do not change;

therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

From the days of your fathers

you have turned aside from my statutes

and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you,"

says the LORD of hosts.

Your LORD has drawn you back to Himself

through His Son, Jesus.

You have returned to the LORD

through the work of the Holy Spirit.

You have returned and find forgiveness for all of your sins

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

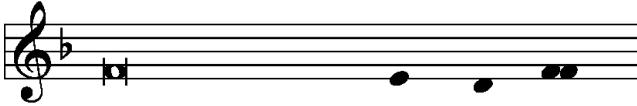
**C: Amen.**

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

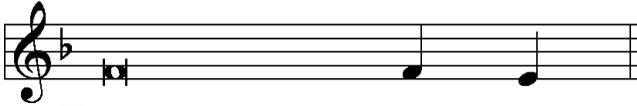
**C: The LORD is our righteousness. Amen.**

## Versicles

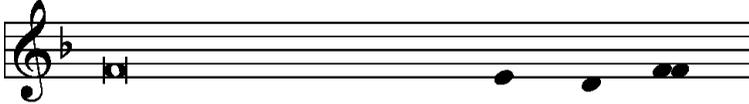
(Advent)



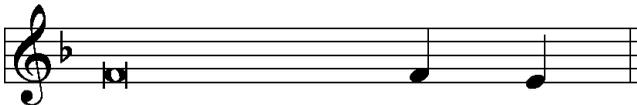
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.

## ***Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)***

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** *And also with you.*

**P:** Let us pray. O God, You make that most holy night of Christ's birth 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.*

**Magnificat ("Magnify"—Mary's Song)**

**My Soul Rejoices**

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

① **Christmas Gospel (Birth of Jesus Foretold)**

**Luke 1:26–38 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**P:** My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

**G:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

from LSB 933 st. 1

② **Christmas Gospel (Mary Visits Elizabeth; Magnificat) Luke 1:39–56 (ESV)**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.



from LSB 933 st. 1

### ③ **Christmas Gospel (The Birth of John the Baptist; Zechariah's Song)**

**Luke 1:57-58,59b-64,67,68-80 (ESV)**

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>... And they would have called him Zechariah after his father,

<sup>60</sup>but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” <sup>61</sup>And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” <sup>62</sup>And they made signs to his father [who could not speak because he doubted God], inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup>And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup>And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

<sup>68</sup>“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

<sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

70as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
 71that we should be saved from our enemies  
 and from the hand of all who hate us;  
 72to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
 and to remember his holy covenant,  
 73the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
 74that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
 might serve him without fear,  
 75in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

76And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
 77to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,  
 78because of the tender mercy of our God,  
 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
 79to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

80And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until  
 the day of his public appearance to Israel.

P: My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

C: Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

from LSB 933 st. 1

#### ④ **Christmas Gospel (The Birth of Jesus; Shepherds) Luke 2:1–20 (ESV)**

<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.

**G** My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

**G** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

from LSB 933 st. 1

**⑤ Christmas Gospel (Jesus Presented at Temple; Genealogy) Luke 2:22-40;3:23-38**

<sup>22</sup>And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

...

<sup>23</sup>Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, <sup>24</sup>the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, <sup>25</sup>the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, <sup>26</sup>the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, <sup>27</sup>the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, <sup>28</sup>the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, <sup>29</sup>the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, <sup>30</sup>the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, <sup>31</sup>the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, <sup>32</sup>the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, <sup>33</sup>the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, <sup>34</sup>the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, <sup>35</sup>the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, <sup>36</sup>the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, <sup>37</sup>the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, <sup>38</sup>the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His  
 2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on  
 3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His  
 4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,  
 oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:  
 way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,  
 lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a  
 Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -  
 His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and  
 And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!  
 liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.  
 grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.  
 foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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## Sermon

# The Birthday of Jesus Theologygram – Gospel of Luke

## Confession of Faith

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.—I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

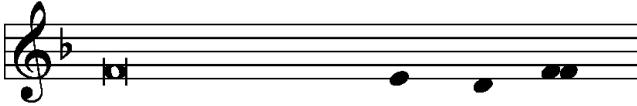
## **Offering**

### **Offering Prayer & Prayer of the Church**

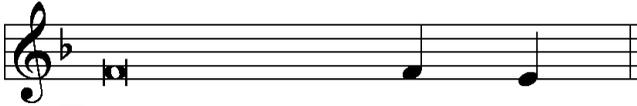
- P: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life. We give You thanks for this day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The day is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Hear us for the sake of Jesus. **C: Amen.**
- P: Lord, we ask Your blessings on this congregation, that we may be drawn closer together around Your Word and Sacraments and closer to You as we celebrate the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: Hear our prayer.**
- P: Lord, we ask You to open our eyes to see all who do not yet have reason to celebrate this season of joy. Many do not know Your love in Christ. Enable us to see those in our midst who are hurting that we might be used by You to touch and change their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: Hear our prayer.**
- P: When many will be experiencing great amount of stress, bring peace, O Lord, and unity and comfort that we may be prepared to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in joy, not weariness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: Hear our prayer.**
- P: We pray, O Father, for the elderly in our midst, the homebound and hospitalized, that during this season we may be aware of their need for companionship and fellowship. Move us, O Lord, to make time for those who have been a blessing to us over the years. Use us, O Lord, to be a blessing to them. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**
- P: Lord, we entrust all for whom we pray to Your mercy, asking You to hear us for Jesus' sake.
- C: Amen.**
- P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- All: 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.**

## Versicles

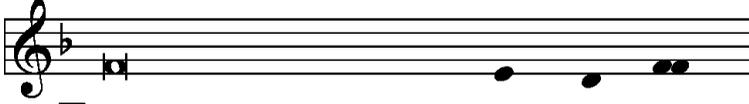
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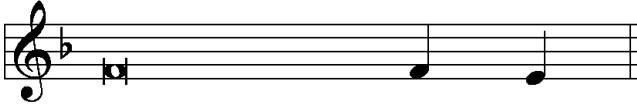
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



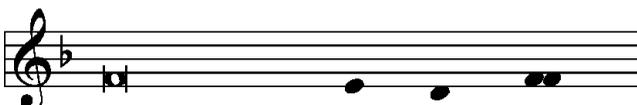
**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



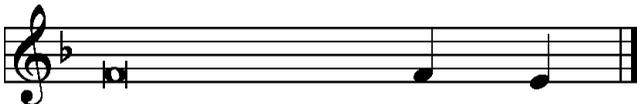
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.

## Benediction

*based on Micah 5:2-5a*

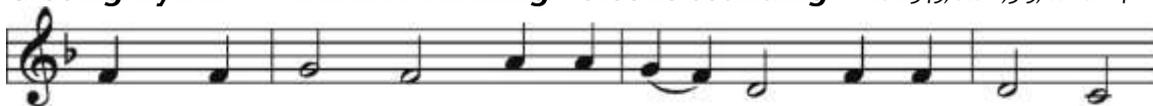
P: Jesus shall stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And you, His flock, shall dwell secure,  
for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth.  
And He shall be your peace.  
The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless you and always watch over you.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

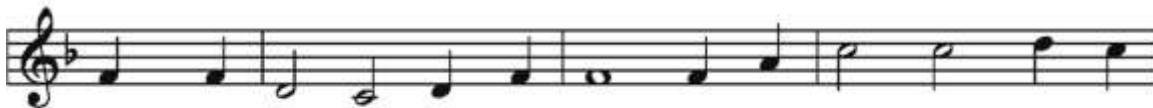
LSB 345, sts. 1,3-5; tune: 848



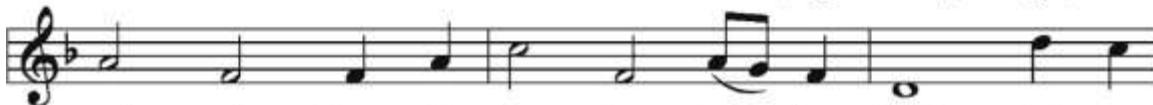
1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we  
2 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the world is



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
wrapped in fear, He will shield us with His mer - cy



All you chil - dren of the day!" See, the Lamb, so long ex -  
And with words of love draw near. Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do -



pect - ed, Comes with par - don down from heav'n. Let us  
min - ion To the Fa - ther and the Son With the



haste, with tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
ev - er liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

# Christmas Worship Services



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. (New time)

## Christmas Day Worship

with Communion 10:00 a.m.

### **Acknowledgments**

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