

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 1 CHRISTMAS EVE



“THE PSALM OF THE ANGELS IS
THE PSALM OF GOD’S PEOPLE”

LUKE 2:1-20

DECEMBER 24, 2022

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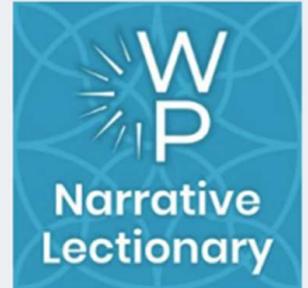
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WHAT IS THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY?

The **Narrative Lectionary** is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church.

The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith.



TODAY'S ORDER OF SERVICE:

ADVENT PROPHETS INTO THE CHRISTMAS FULFILLMENT

This service draws from the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth, and now reveal to us how Christmas is the fulfillment of those promises.

Anthem

Bethlehemtown

Adult Choir

- Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

*O who will direct me to Bethlehemtown?
For brightness has hidden the way;
And tinsel distractions have stolen from view
the Infant asleep on the hay.*

*O come and go with me to Bethlehemtown,
And shielding our eyes from the flare,
We'll bow in a stable as starlight shines down,
and quietly worship Him there*

*O who will go with me to Bethlehemtown?
For clamor has deafened the ear.
The shouting of merchants has muffled the song
of angel choirs hovering near.*

*O come and go with me to Bethlehemtown,
And shielding our ears from the blare,
We'll bow in a stable as singing floats down,
and quietly worship Him there.*

O come, all you people, to Bethlehemtown,
Leave all of the glitter behind.
Leave diamonds and rubies and silver and gold,
the richest of treasures to find.

O come and go with me to Bethlehemtown,
And shielding our hearts from the glare,
We'll bow in a stable where God has come down
and quietly worship Him there.

We'll bow in a stable in Bethlehemtown
and quietly worship Him there.

Entrance Words and Invocation

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

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

C: And have now come!

P: When He will fulfill the promise He made to all of His people:

C: Jesus, the Promised Son of David, has now come into the flesh.

P: In these days the LORD's people are saved,

C: And His Church, His people, are secure in Him.

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

C: The LORD is our righteousness.

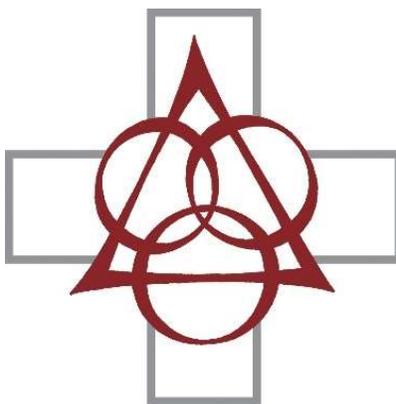
P: What does that name mean?

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93, Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Gradual (Words for Approaching Altar) Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 98:1a; antiphon (repeated): Matthew 1:21

P: Alleluia. Mary will bear a son, and she will call His Name Jesus,

C: for He will save His people from their sins. Alleluia.

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

P: And his name shall be called

**C: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for he has done marvelous things!

P: Alleluia. She has given birth to a son, and she has named Him Jesus,

C: for He has saved His people from their sins. Alleluia.

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 us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

Preparation for God's Word

based on Luke 2:30,32; Psalm 98:1-4; Malachi 3:1-7b

P: Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation;

C: *a light for revelation to the Gentiles,*

P: and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

C: *Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!*

P: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

C: *The LORD has made known his salvation;*

P: he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

C: *He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*

P: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C: *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;*

P: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**C: *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.***

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 is called:

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

Hymn for the Readings

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383

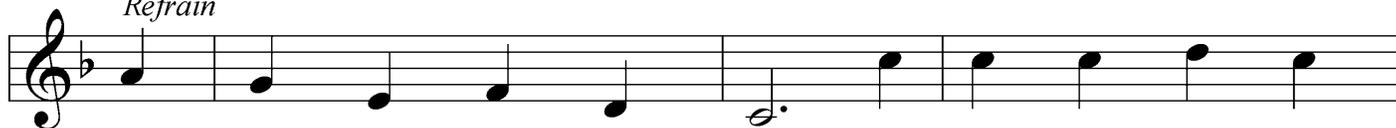


1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,



The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.
Rejoice, O valleys and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.
The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord.

Refrain



Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be



glory And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln

Versicles

Isaiah 9:2a; John 1:5; Isaiah 9:2b; John 1:14b; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:4

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness,
but the darkness has not understood it.**

P: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

C: **We have seen His glory,
the glory of the one and only Son
who came from the Father.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: **In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

Children's Message

Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-14 (ESV)

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Psalm of the People (read responsively)

Psalm 96 (ESV)

R: ¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

C: sing to the LORD, all the earth!

R: ²Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

C: tell of his salvation from day to day.

R: ³Declare his glory among the nations,

C: his marvelous works among all the peoples!

R: ⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

C: he is to be feared above all gods.

R: ⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,

C: but the LORD made the heavens.

R: ⁶Splendor and majesty are before him;

C: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

R: ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,

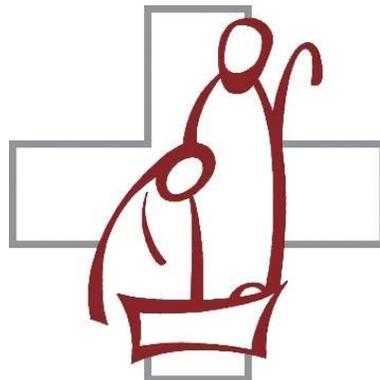
C: ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

R: ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
C: *bring an offering, and come into his courts!*
R: ⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
C: *tremble before him, all the earth!*
R: ¹⁰Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!
C: *Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;*
R: he will judge the peoples with equity.”
C: *“Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;*
R: let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
C: *let the field exult, and everything in it!*
R: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy ³before the LORD,
C: *for he comes to judge the earth.*
R: He will judge the world in righteousness,
C: *and the peoples in his faithfulness.*
R: Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
C: *sing to the LORD, all the earth!*
R: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
C: *He gives peace and good hope to all!”*

Christmas Gospel (continued)

Luke 2:15-20 (ESV)

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



Anthem

“Gloria”

Adult Choir

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Glory to God in the highest, And on earth be peace to men;
 Angels singing, tidings bringing, Jesus the Lord is born.
 Glory to God in the highest, And on the earth be peace to me;
 Angels singing, tidings bringing, Jesus the Lord is born.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo,
 Gloria Christ the Lord is born.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo,
 Gloria Christ the Lord is born.
 Alleluia, alleluia, Jesus the Lord is born.

Hymn of the Day

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



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.

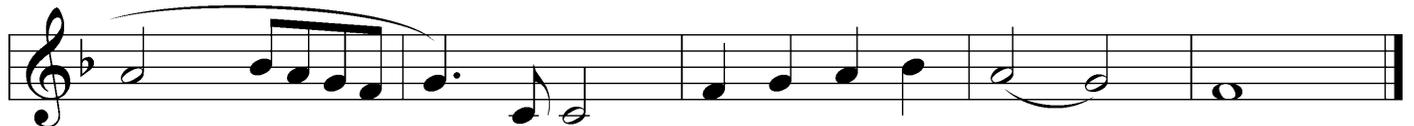
Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.
Text and tune: French

Sermon

“The Psalm of the Angels is the Psalm of God’s People”

Luke 2:14 & Psalm 96

Hymn of Response

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366, sts. 1,3



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.

Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

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 & Carols

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

LSB 377 sts. 1, 3-4



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



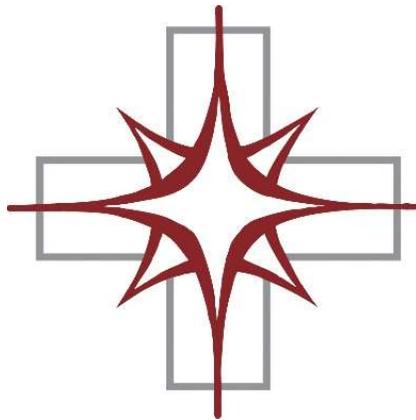
an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to

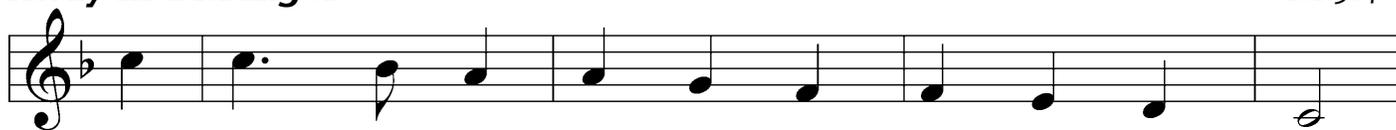


mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
sing, All for to see the new - born King.
men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."



Away in a Manger

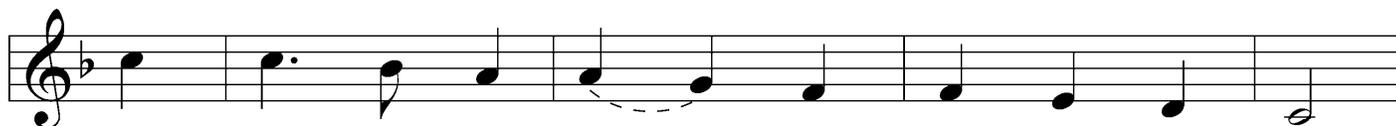
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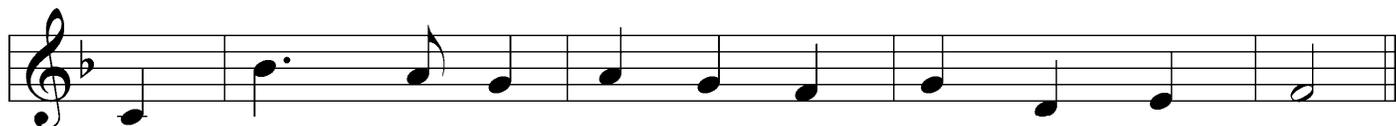
1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



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.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

Prayers of the Church

P: Almighty God, in the person of Your Son Jesus Christ, You reveal Your strength before the eyes of all nations. Grant that we may break forth in joyous song as we thank You for our redemption from sin, death, and the devil's power that has come down from heaven. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: *Oh come, let us worship Him.*

P: Eternal God, in the mystery of Your holy incarnation and blessed nativity You took upon our human flesh. It is in the very flesh of Jesus that we behold Your glory, receive grace and understand Your truth. Increase our faith that we may be bold witnesses concerning the complete revelation of Your Word. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: *Oh come, let us worship Him.*

P: With the shepherds, O Lord, we marvel at the miracle of Your nativity. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people so that, without reservation, we would spread the good news of salvation revealed to us through the Word made flesh. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: *Oh come, let us worship Him.*

P: O Lord, in humility, You who were rich became poor to redeem us from sin's curse. Comfort those who face economic challenges granting them courage to endure hardship; help us to know how to lovingly support and encourage them to look in trust to You. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: *Oh come, let us worship Him.*

P: Almighty God, grant Your blessing to those in need. Banish their sadness, anxiety, and sorrow with the certainty of forgiveness and life everlasting. Cheer their weary spirits by Your gracious visitation. Keep us ever mindful that Your only begotten Son bears our burdens and grief. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: *Oh come, let us worship Him.*

P: Through the gracious works of our Prince of Peace, graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Acknowledgments

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.

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Video Meditation:
“A Christmas Hallelujah” by Cloverton
(original song written by Leonard Cohen)

I've heard about this baby boy
Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah
Hallelujah

A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah
Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
You'll find Him in a manger bed
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah
Hallelujah

A star shown bright up in the east
To Bethlehem, the wisemen three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah
Hallelujah

I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah
Hallelujah



Lighting of the Candles

(The Pastor lights the candles of the people at the center aisle who will pass the flame to the others in the row. Please turn the unlit candle sideways to receive the light; do not turn lit candles on their side. When all have received the light, the service continues with the liturgy.)

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

Closing Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363, sts. 1-2

1 Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Benediction

based on Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P: To you a child is born, to you a son is given;

and the government is upon his shoulder.

And his name is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things for you,

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

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363, st. 3

3 Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.



Thank You for Beautifying our Worship Areas with Poinsettias

Norm Balliet – To the glory of God;

Sheila Bunnell – (2 plants) To the glory of God;

Ralph & Donna Danielsen – In memory of their parents;

Jim Franz – (3 plants) In memory of his mother, father, brother, sister and grandparents;

Chris Mason – (2 plants) In memory of mother-in-law Helen Mason and mother Christine Roberts;

Ted & Margie Tatgenhorst – To the glory of God;

Tom Schultz – (2 plants) In memory of Martha, Norman & Meri-Beth Schultz;

Paul & Linda Groh - (2 plants) To the glory of God;

Wayne Henkel – In memory of his mother Mavis Henkel;

John & Karen Kozlik – (2 plants) To the glory of God;

Maria Kube – (2 plants) In memory of husband Calvin and to the glory of God;

Patty & Bob Livingston (2 plants) – In appreciation of their granddaughters and in memory of Phillip F. Svehla;

LeAnna Herstowski – In memory of LeRoy Burandt;

Holly Traynor - (2 plants) To the glory of God;

Lynda Oesterreich – In memory of Bill Oesterreich;

Nickolas Kazarian – (2 plants) In memory of Grace Gibson and Patricia Rasmussen;

Lance Rasmussen – (3 plants) In memory of Patricia Rasmussen, Art & Evelyn Rasmussen, and to the glory of God;

The Souza Family – (2 plants) In memory of Bill & Alice Souza, Mark Souza and Patricia Souza-Rasmussen;

Teresa Flowers – (2 plants) In memory of her parents Norman & Patricia;

Joan Blasko – (3 plants) In memory of Elizabeth & Edward Yarusinsky, Michael Yarusinsky and to the glory of God;

The Squires Family - (2 plants) In memory of Susan's mother Sam Nicks Foster and Pastor's grandparents Palmer & Mary Mickelson;

David & Cheryl Ross – (4 plants) In memory of Gordon & Carol Gillings and George & Jean Ross;

Dawn Werfelmann – (2 plants) To the glory of God.

Your Poinsettia's will be available for pickup after the Christmas day worship service or arrange to pick them up with the church office the following week. Contact the church office at 847-244-9647 with any questions.