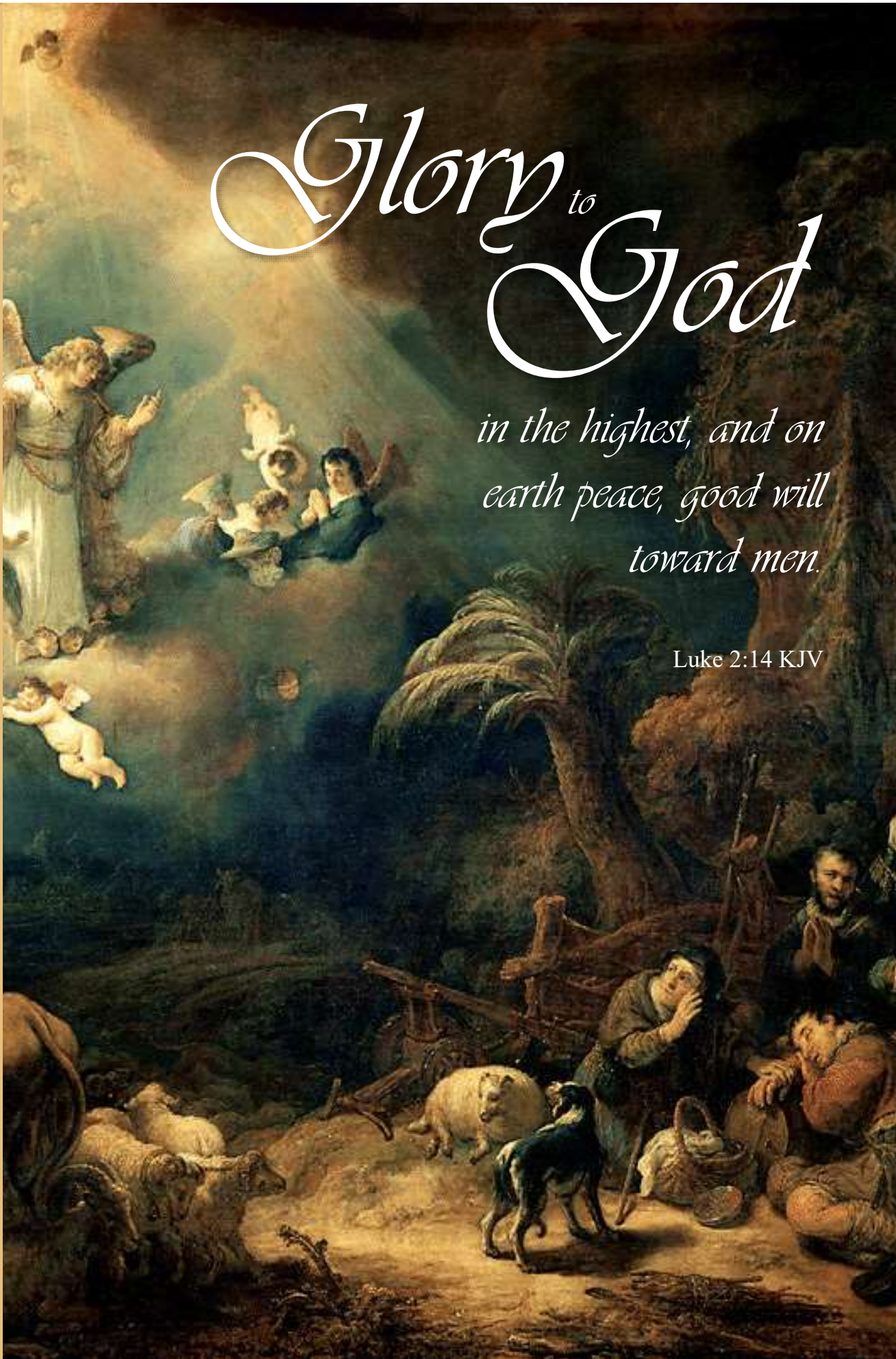


Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Plano, Texas

Glory ^{to} God

*in the highest, and on
earth peace, good will
toward men.*

Luke 2:14 KJV



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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Our Mission Statement

Bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ by

† reaching up to God in worship and prayer,

† reaching in to be empowered by God's Word as members of His family &

† reaching out at every opportunity with the Gospel of Christ.

A Prayer before Worship

Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born. Let the sick and infirm rejoice, For their savior is born. Let the captives rejoice, For their Redeemer is born. Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born. Let free men rejoice, For their Liberator is born. Let All Christians rejoice, For Jesus Christ is born. St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)

Large Print Bulletin

Copies of today's bulletin are available in LARGE PRINT. Please ask an usher if you would like to use this option.

Nursery/Cry Room

An unstaffed nursery is available for families with young children ages 2 and under in Room 109. Or, if you prefer, Room 100 also is available as a cry room and/or a room for nursing mothers. Please ask an usher if you need assistance or directions.



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

6:00 PM

Candlelight Service

Choral Prelude

“Silent Night” by Richard Proulx

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Hirten erst kundgemacht!
Durch der Engel Halleluja, Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter, ist da, Christ, der Retter ist da!*

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb aus deinem göttlichen Mund, Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund,
Christ, in deiner Geburt, Christ in deiner Geburt.*

Stand

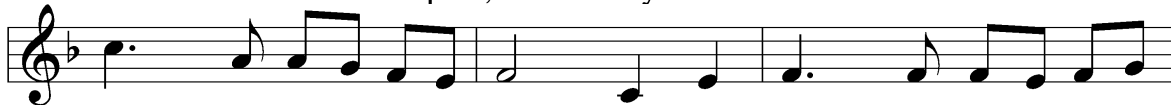
Processional Carol

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB 376



Solo/Choir only: 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!

Invocation

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

Responsory

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
P Those who dwelt in the land of the deep darkness, on them has light shined.
C **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
C **In him was life, and the life was the light of all.**
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
C **O God, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:1–7

¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For 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.
⁷Of 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”

LSB 359



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.

Choral Carol

(Congregation to join on last verse)

“God Loves Me Dearly” *setting by Jacob Weber*

LSB 392

*God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. Refrain*

*I was in slav'ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working
To make me free. Refrain*

*He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. Refrain*

*Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. Refrain*



Congregation: 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26–38

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

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And 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.

Carol

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

Stand

Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1–7 KJV

¹ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Sit

Choral Ensemble

“Lullaby, Sleep in Peace” by Dale Grotenhuis

*Lullaby, sleep in peace, my precious Babe, lullaby, dear newborn King.
Promised one, Son of God and Son of man, lovingly my heart does sing.
My soul and spirit praise my God that I so humbly blessed may be.*

*Lullaby, Prince of Peace, your mother watches you, father guards on bended knee.
Shepherds haste, angels sing their songs of praise while stars so brightly shine.
Magnify, glorify the Lord with me, lullaby, my Child Divine.*

*“Peace on the earth,” the angels sing, “for Christ, the Lord, is born today.”
Lullaby, sweetly sleep, I’ll hold you close; sleep, my Son, on bed of hay.*

Carol

“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!

Stand

Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:8-14 KJV

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men.

Sit

Carol

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380



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!



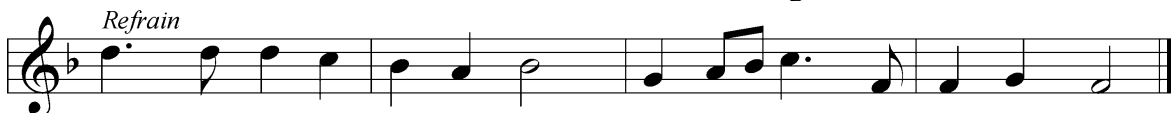
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



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.



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

Stand

Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:15–20

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Responsory

- P** In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets...
C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by his Son.

Sit

Choral Anthem

variation on "Quempas Carol" Traditional

(Congregation to join on Refrain)

*Children: He whom joyous shepherds praised, When the angel's song was raised
Bidding them be not amazed, Heav'n's all glorious King is born.*

*Choir: The glorious angels came today, Aglow with light into the night of darkness deep,
To shepherds who by moon's bright ray Did in the field o'er sheep their silent vigil keep.
"Joy, great joy and tidings glad we bring from heav'n resounding,
For you, for you and all the world abounding."*

*Refrain:
(All)*

God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Fath'r is rec-on-ciled, is rec-on-ciled!

*Children: Now rejoice with Jesus' mother, Praise her newborn Son, our Brother,
Angels vie with one another, Praising Him beyond the sky.*

*Choir: Then sang the angels this refrain: "To God on high alone give praise and glory,
And peace on earth again shall reign. Let all mankind with gladness heed this story
And rejoice in His good will." The Savior came in meekness,
For you, for you to bear your flesh in weakness.*

Refrain:
(All)



God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Fath'r is rec - on - ciled, is rec - on - ciled!

Children:

*Sing to Christ, the King who reigneth, Yet of Mary manhood gaineth,
Born our God' let us adore Him: Glory be to God on high.*

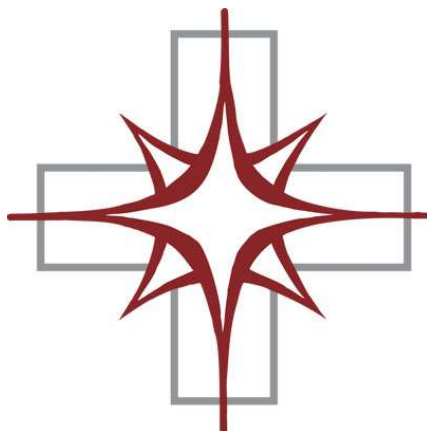
Choir: *The wond'ring shepherds said: "Behold, Let us now go with all good speed to Beth-le-hem
To see this thing the Lord has told. The cattle leave; He will indeed take care of them."
There they found the Wonder Babe, in lowly swaddling clothes lying,
Though all the world with His free grace supplying.*

Refrain:
(All)



God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Fath'r is rec - on - ciled, is rec - on - ciled!

Christmas Message



Stand

Lighting of Individual Candles:

For safety reasons, we ask that you be at least 10 years of age to hold a lighted candle during this portion of the service. Please do not tilt the candle once it is lit, but pass the light on while the receiving unlit candle is tilted into the flame.

Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

LSB 363

*Choir only: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Christmas Prayer

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.**

Extinguishing of Individual Candles:

Please carefully blow out your candle, holding one hand behind the flame so as not to accidentally disperse hot wax. Place your candle in the box in the narthex when you leave the service this evening.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

Recessional Carol

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387



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
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Sit

Dismissal

P Go in peace, for a Savior has been born unto you who brings forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude



*Thank you to the following people
who dedicated poinsettias this Christmas Season:*

Mike and Sandy Paradise in thanksgiving for friends and family

Jack and Nelda Schrank in thanksgiving for family

Paul and Suzan Grabow in thanksgiving for Christ's first coming

Bette Martin in thanksgiving for her loved ones

Charis Bennett in thanksgiving for family

Duffy and Cindy Carter in thanksgiving for our children, Samson and Jonah

Duffy and Cindy Carter in memory of our children, David, Eve and Daniel

*Don, Paula, and Carter Bunger in memory of lost loved ones and
in thanksgiving for our congregation, family, friends and Christ's birth*

Rose Moore in memory of Randy Moore

The Hite Family in memory of Alec Hite

The Cleavenger family in memory of Arturo Pérez

Scott and Jonelle Peters in thanksgiving for their kids and grandkids

Nora Parrent in memory of Leo

Nora Parrent in thanksgiving for her family

Scarth family in memory their grandparents

Scarth family in thanksgiving for family

Mark and Susan Knowles in thanksgiving for their family, children and grandson

Mark and Susan Knowles in memory of their parents

Gary and Charlotte Bennefeld in thanksgiving for Christmas

Gary and Charlotte Bennefeld in thanksgiving for Christmas

The Jackson family in memory of Nancy Pennington

Dave and Dee Peters in thanksgiving for children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Dave and Dee Peters in thanksgiving for children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

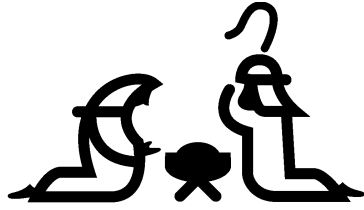
Tim and Carol Ozlowski in thanksgiving for God's blessings

Brian and Gail Wolf in thankfulness

Al and Norma Martin in memory of loving family and friends

Clarice Lundquist in thanksgiving for family & God's many blessings





MERRY CHRISTMAS

Serving Our Worship Tonight:

Pastor:

Organist:

Trumpet:

French Horn:

Tenor Saxophone:

Timpani:

Violin:

Harp:

Acolyte:

Elder:

Usher:

Sound Tech:

Pastor Joel Shaltanis

Victoria Frinsko

Fred Bernhardt

Kel Hendrix

Daniel Ozlowski

Jonah Carter

Brian Wolf

Robert Padgett

Daniel Kim

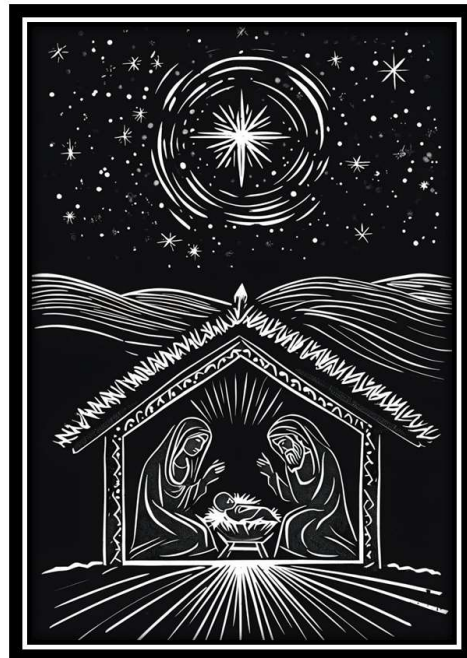
Magdalena Shaltanis

Sean Tweedie

Scott Peters

David Messinger

Doug Hite



THE QUEMPAS CAROL

“THE QUEMPAS GOES ‘ROUND”

“*The Quempas goes ‘round’* - this phrase describes a worshipful and truly beautiful Christmas custom which dates back to the Middle Ages. At midnight on Christmas Eve, when the congregation had assembled for worship, four groups of boys proceeded to the four corners of the church to announce to the congregation from north, south, east, and west that ‘*Heaven’s all-glorious King is born.*’

As soon as they had reached their places, group one began to sing the first phrase of the Quempas carol, ‘He whom joyous shepherds praised,’ followed by the second group singing the second phrase, and so on. After the fourth phrase, the mixed choir sang the first stanza of the *Nunc angelorum*, ‘The glorious angels came today.’ Then the congregation joined both choirs in the singing of the refrain ‘God’s own Son is born a child.’ In this manner all four stanzas of the Quempas were sung. This constituted the principal item of carol singing on Christmas Eve; in fact, the service was not considered complete without the singing of the Quempas. Thus, even today, ‘The Quempas goes ‘round’ again in many churches every Christmas Eve and every Twelfth Night.

THE NAME QUEMPAS

The Quempas Carol receives its name from the first two syllables of the Latin original:

*QUEM PAS tores laudavere.
quibus angeli dixere;
absit vobis jam timere.
natus est Rex gloriae.*

The complete carol consists of three Latin texts. The second text is:

*Nunc angelorum gloria
hominibus resplenduit in mundo,
quam celebris victoria
recolitur in corde laetabundo;
novi partus gaudia
virgo mater produxit,
et sol verus in tenebris illuxit.*

The third text is the refrain from the carol *Resonet in laudibus*:

*Magnum nomen Domini Emanuel
quod annuntiatum est per Gabriel.*

THE HISTORY OF THE QUEMPAS

No one really knows how old the Quempas is. A few handwritten copies of the Latin are extant which come from the Middle Ages. The Hohenfurth Cloister in southern Bohemia has a manuscript from 1450 (now in the museum of Prague) which contains sacred folk songs and carols both in Latin and German. The first two carols in the manuscript are the *Quem pastores* and the *Nunc angelorum* together with their melodies. Various other manuscripts and orders of service from before and after the Reformation

contain the Quemphas with the notation ‘an ancient custom.’ Martin Luther makes no reference to the Quemphas. However, the *Nunc angelorum* appears as a hymn among other hymns in some Lutheran hymnals from 1543 on. After the Reformation both the *Quem pastores* and the *Nunc angelorum* appear side by side in many hymnals. The first time the actual method of performance is hinted at is in Johann Leisentritt's *Geistliche Lieder und Psalmen* (Bautzen, 1567). Here the heading for the Quemphas reads, ‘A beautiful song for the boys to sing in church in four choirs.’ A Lutheran missal printed instructions by Matthaeus Luedtke in Wittenberg in 1589 contained specific instructions for the singing of the Quemphas. His instructions became, in general, the norm.

Soon after, various part settings appeared. The most famous of these is the one by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) printed here. In the introduction to his setting of the Quemphas, Praetorius quotes from the *Mainzer Cantual* of 1605: ‘This is very old. It originated in the ancient church. [With this carol the people] reminded themselves of the angels’ hymn of praise and the joy of the shepherds. Following their example, they praised the almighty God intimately for the gracious birth of Christ.’

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The Angel Appearing to the Shepherds, Govert Flinck, 1639