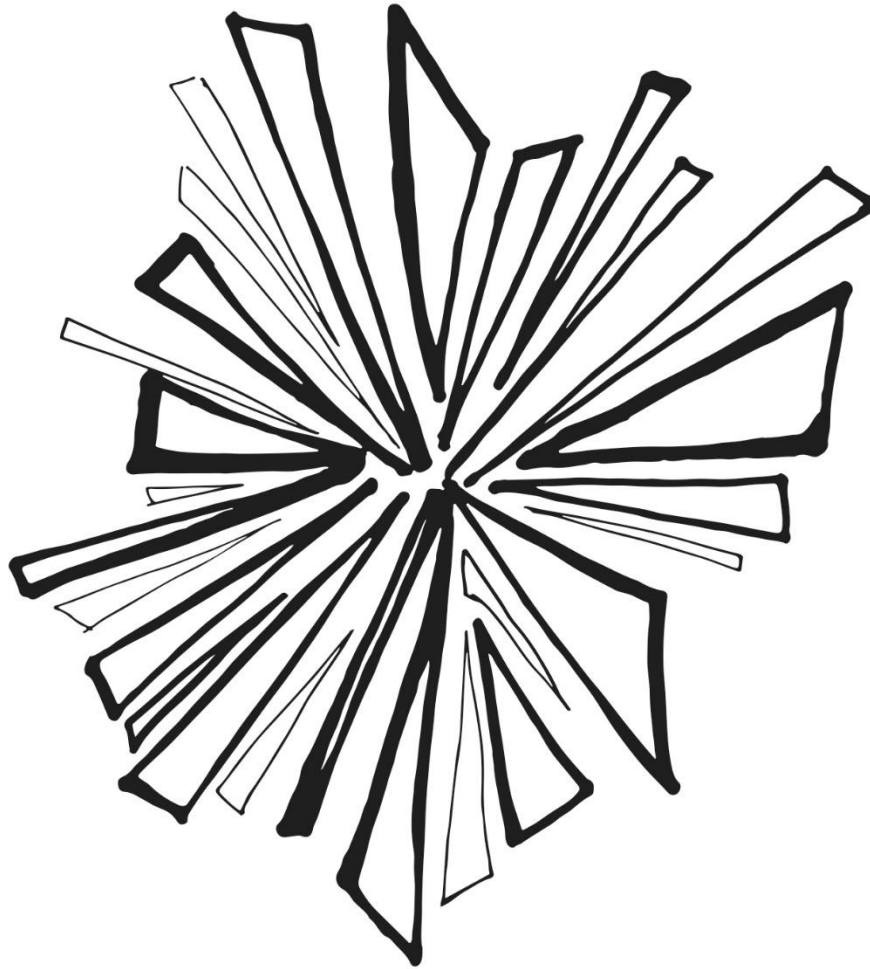


**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE



First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

Service of Lessons & Carols

All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking for a Church Home?

Mr. Rogers once asked, "Won't you be my neighbor?" Jesus asked, "Who is your neighbor?" At Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) - Zionsville, our answer to Jesus' question is EVERYONE, and to Mr. Rogers - YES.

God calls us to meet people wherever they are in their journey of faith – and that includes YOU!

At Christ Lutheran Church you are welcomed, just as you are:

- Single, committed, married, divorced, lost your partner, still looking or not.
- Every race, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
- Ready to join a group or prefer to sit back
- Regardless of knowing a little or a lot about Jesus
- Whether you have left the Church and are returning
- Whether you find yourself on this list or not

We are calling YOU neighbor! Join us!

Children in Worship

Children hold a special place in our congregation! We warmly invite children of all ages to join us in worship. We embrace their natural tendencies to giggle, poke, squirm, and swing their legs - it's all part of being a child and a precious gift to our community.

Our nursery is available from **10:30 to 11:30**, staffed by dedicated caregivers who will lovingly care for infants and toddlers. This allows parents to fully engage in worship, knowing their little ones are in safe hands. The nursery provides age-appropriate toys and a comforting environment, ensuring your child's needs are met while you worship with the congregation.

We respect and support each family's unique circumstances and preferences. Whether your child joins the main worship service or utilizes our nursery, we are here to accommodate and make everyone feel welcome and comfortable.

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- arr. Miller

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF BROKENESS / CONFESSION

P God of life,

**C you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

**Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

C Amen.

HYMN OF CHRISTMASTIDE

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant;
O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him born the King of angels.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:

REFRAIN

REFRAIN

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
O Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

REFRAIN

***REFRAIN: O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!***

PRAYER OF CHRISTMASTIDE

P Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON **The Glory of the Lord will be revealed...**

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

CAROL

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
Teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

THE SECOND LESSON God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed...

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

CAROL

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

THE THIRD LESSON The birth and kingdom of the Messiah are foretold by Isaiah...

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CAROL

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a Flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love a-right
She bore to men a Savior
When half-spent was the night.

THE FOURTH LESSON The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem...

Micah 5:2-4

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the
time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the
strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his
God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall
be great
to the ends of the earth;

CAROL*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by.
 Yet in the dark streets shineth
 The everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us we pray;
 Cast out our sin, and enter in;
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord, Emmanuel.

THE FIFTH LESSON The angel appeared to the shepherds, announcing Jesus' birth...**Luke 2:8-12**

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

CAROL*"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"*

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 Once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 Worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 Worship Christ, the newborn king.

THE SIXTH LESSON Luke tells of the birth of Jesus...**Luke 2:1-7**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL*"Away in a Manger"*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus
 Laid down His sweet head.
 The stars in the sky
 Looked down where He lay;
 The little Lord Jesus,
 Asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing;
 The Baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus –
 No crying He makes.
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus;
 Look down from the sky,
 And stay by my side until
 Morning is nigh.

THE SEVENTH LESSON The shepherds go to the manger...**Luke 2:14-16**

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

CAROL*"What Child is This?"*

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
 While shepherds watch are keeping?

REFRAIN

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king to own Him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

REFRAIN

***REFRAIN: This, this is Christ, the King,
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

THE EIGHTH LESSON The wisemen are led by the star of Jesus...**Matthew 2:1-11**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

"The First Noel"

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

REFRAIN

And by the light of that same star
Three wisemen came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

REFRAIN

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

REFRAIN

REFRAIN: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

THE NINTH LESSON John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation...

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

APOSTLES' CREED

P Gathered together by the power of the Holy Spirit we confess our common faith:

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use. ** meaning - all of God's Church..

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence

P You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness especially for **Tina, Tom, Dave, Kathy, Bill, Marilyn, Brenda, John, Pat, John, Charlotte, Paige, Michael, Kat, Dorothy, Mimi, Theresa, Janice, Patrick, LCFS**, and for all those we now name in our hearts or in Your presence. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

C Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ is with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

Please rise as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
C Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

P The Lord is with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Then, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

*All are welcome to participate in the Lord's Meal. If it's been years, or just a week, the bread and wine/juice and Jesus' presence in, with, and around them are for all. If you have questions about taking your first communion don't hesitate to speak with Pastor Wes. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. When you come forward you will receive a wafer from Pastor Wes and you will hear the words **the body of Christ, given for you**. Once you eat the wafer you are invited to take either wine or juice from the communion assistant and you will hear the words, **the blood of Christ, shed for you**. Once you've communed there is a small receptacle where the used communion cup can be placed.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

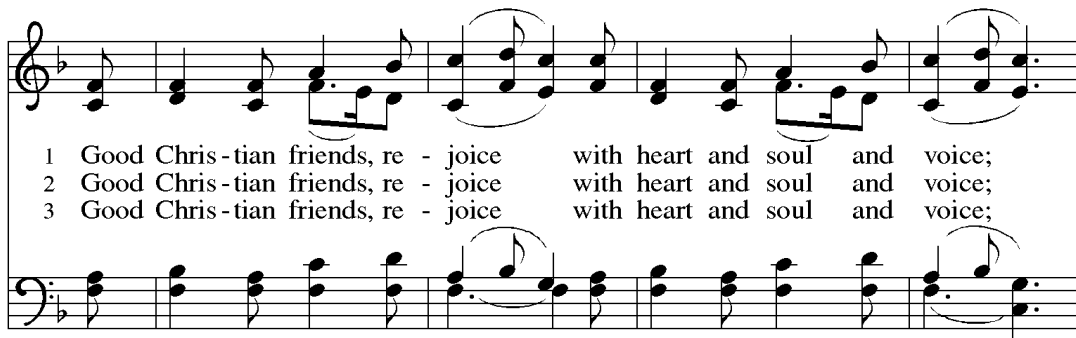
P God bless you and keep you,
✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

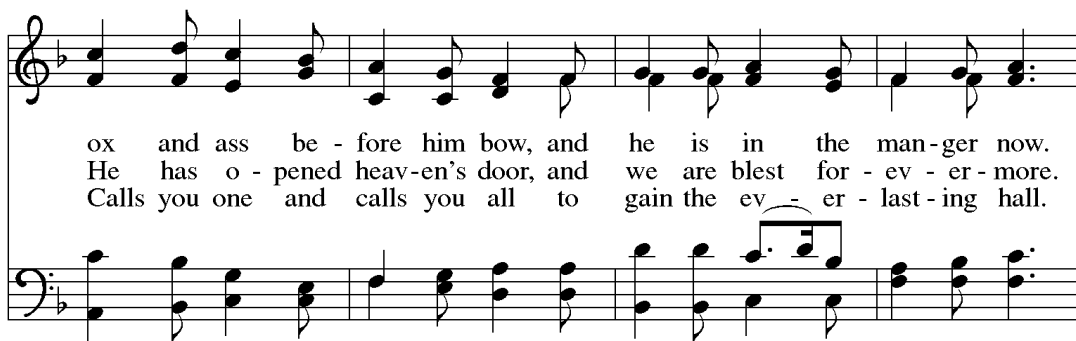
ELW 28



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

DISMISSAL

P Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry - arr. Cherwien

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SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Communion Assistant:	Gretchen Jeffers
Greeter:	Gary Ashenfelter
Usher:	Bob Behrend
Nursery:	Jess Smith
Hospitality:	Sue Haughton & Julia Hill
Financial Assistants:	Deb Holbrook & Jamie Stewart
Altar Guild:	Barb Burkhardt, Connie Steinhart, & Linda Callecod
AV Assistant	Bill Beck

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