

Service of Carols

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
 When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-’ring wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
 And ev-er o’er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

I Am So Glad ~ JEG ER SAA GLAD



1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, The night of Je-sus’ birth!
 2 The lit-tle child in Beth-le-hem, He was a king in-deed!
 3 He dwells a-gain in heav-en’s realm, The Son of God to-day;
 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais-es then I sing;



Then like the sun the star shone forth, And an-gels sang on earth.
 For he came down from heav’n a-bove To help a world in need.
 And still he loves his lit-tle ones And hears them when they pray.
 He o-pens now for ev-’ry child The pal-ace of the king.



5 When mother trims the Christmas tree
 Which fills the room with light,
 She tells me of the wondrous star
 That made the dark world bright.

6 And so I love each Christmas Eve,
 And I love Jesus too;
 And that he loves me every day
 I know so well is true.

Stand

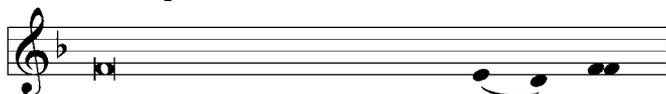
Service of Light



L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



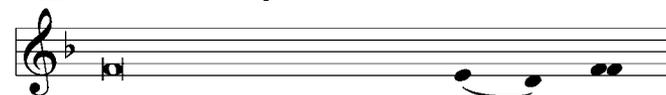
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.



L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:

Refrain

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving for Light

L We praise and thank You, O God, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 that You have enlightened us by revealing the Light that nev - er fades.
 Night *is fall - ing*, and day's allotted span draws to a close.
has fall - en,
 The daylight which You created for our plea - sure has fully sat - is-fied us,
 and yet, of Your free gift, now the evening lights do not fail us.
 We praise You and glorify You through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 through Him be glory, honor, and power
 to You in the Holy Spirit now and always and for - ev - er and ev - er.

C A - men.

Sit



P Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

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 and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

⁵For 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Reading

1 John 1:1—2:2

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



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 and tune: Public domain

Stand

Reading

Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And 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:) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And 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. 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. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And 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.

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. ¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* LSB 358



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad-dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

Continued

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "Ponder Christmas"

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Hymn

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.

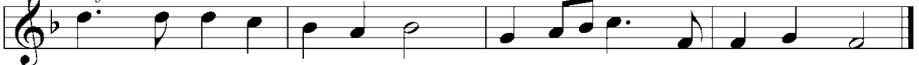


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



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!"

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand



Service of Prayer

Litany

The congregation's response begins as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mercy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

L For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

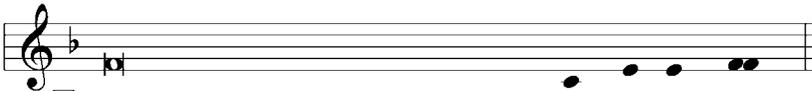
L For the sick and the dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For our deliverance from all affliction, want, and danger, and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

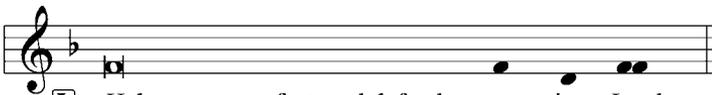
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:



C Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

Collect of the Day

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

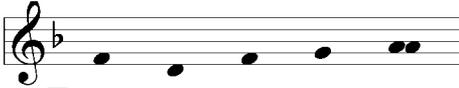


C A - men.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Benedicamus

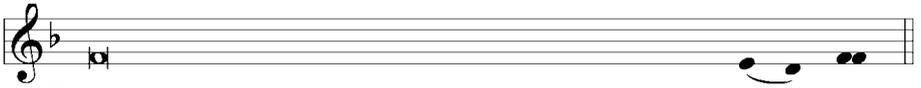


L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Service of Candlelight

Please light your candle.

Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night ~ STILLE NACHT

LSB 363



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



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

Tune and text: Public domain

Please be seated. The ushers will dismiss each pew, beginning at the back of the nave. You are kindly asked to leave the church building immediately. Visiting and the exchange of holiday greetings may be done under the front portico. Keep your candle and relight it during this holy season as reminder of this evening and of the truth that the light of Christ has shined on you.



Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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