

feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary! Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

P: *Even as we gather this Christmas Eve in hope and joy, many here and throughout the world carry heavy burdens. In this moment we ask God to free us from the things that weigh us down and to fill our darkness with the light of Christ.*

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

P: *The light of Christ fill you this night and remain with you always.*

C: Amen.

CAROL *Silent Night* #281

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.

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!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

PRAYER

C: God of light, shine in our darkness, brighten our days, and send us now with good news for all people. In Jesus' name, amen.

BENEDICTION GOD'S BLESSING IS SPOKEN OVER US.

P: *O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL WE DEPART TO SERVE CHRIST IN THE WORLD.

P: *Glory to God in the highest!*

C: Peace to God's people on earth!

P: *Go in peace to share the gift of Jesus.*

C: Thanks be to God!

P: *And all God's people said,*

C: Amen!

CAROL Go, Tell it on the Mountain #290

REFRAIN

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. REFRAIN

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. REFRAIN

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

REFRAIN Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

POSTLUDE

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RADIO BROADCAST

- In memory of Arnold and Rosella Olsen, given by their family
- Given by Jola Amundsen and family in memory of Jerry Amundsen and Tammy Amundsen Reignier

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Thank you for your support of our ministry. Offering envelopes are located in each pew. You can also give by texting 320.500.6014 or by visiting us online at firstlutheranalexandria.com/your-gift.

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CHRISTMAS EVE
6:00 & 9:00PM



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

CAROLS *O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1 & 4)* #283

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

REFRAIN

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing REFRAIN

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1 & 3) #270

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

REFRAIN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

REFRAIN

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: *In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.*

C: Amen.

At this time, we take a few moments to be still, to confess our sin, and to receive the gift of God's forgiveness. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: *Gracious God,*

C: in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness.

We confess that we often fail to welcome your light. Forgive us and renew us with hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace and welcome the truth of Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: *I bring you the good news of great joy for all people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. In him, your sins are forgiven and you are made new.*

C: Amen.

CAROL **Angels We Have Heard on High** **#289**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

REFRAIN

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

REFRAIN

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, you make this holy day shine with the brightness of your grace and truth. Teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus. Lead us by your Spirit to praise his name and to use our gifts to share his love with all people. In Jesus' name, amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Paige Mackedanz**CHILDREN'S TIME** **Away in a Manger** **#277**

(Sung both coming up and going back)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there. Text: North American, 19th cent.

SCRIPTURE READING See insert.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Luke 2:1-14

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL **O Little Town of Bethlehem** **#279**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.

No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Pastor Greg Billberg**CAROL** **Joy to the World** **#267**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry 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 earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness

and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**OFFERING WE RETURN TO GOD A PORTION OF OUR BLESSINGS.****OFFERING PRAYER**

God, you came as a baby to a manger, slept on scratchy straw, and greeted unsuspecting shepherds. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. Keep us mindful of all we have been given, and through these gifts, help us be a blessing to others. In Jesus' name, amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION**LORD'S PRAYER**

See back cover of ELW

COMMUNION

All are welcome. Gluten free wafers and white grape juice are available upon request.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION **The First Noel** **#300**

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

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

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

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from
country far; to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. REFRAIN

This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and
there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.
REFRAIN

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Refrain Text: English traditional

What Child is This? **#296**

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?

This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are