

**The Nativity of our Lord ~ Christmas Eve**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

***The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness***

Heaven and earth rejoice on this night because the glory of the Holy Trinity is manifested in the human birth of “*our great God and Savior Jesus Christ*” (Titus 2:13), through whom the Father’s grace and mercy permeate the world. Death’s silence is nullified by this “*good news of great joy that will be for all the people*” (Luke 2:10). And all we who have gone astray like lost and wandering sheep, who have “*walked in darkness*” of doubt, fear and sinful unbelief, behold “*a great light*” in the nativity of Jesus Christ (Is. 9:2). In Him, “*the grace of God has appeared*” (Titus 2:11). For this child of Mary who is born for us, this dear Son of God who is given to us, bears the burden of our sin and death in His own body on the cross. By initiating and fulfilling His earthly journey from nativity to crucifixion, Christ establishes a government of peace, “*with justice and with righteousness,*” which shall have no end. This is not by any work of man, but “*the zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this*” (Is. 9:7).



**The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness**

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**Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

*LSB 338*



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

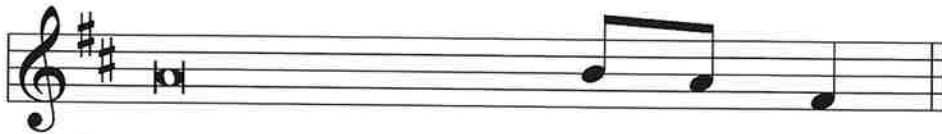
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Greeting**

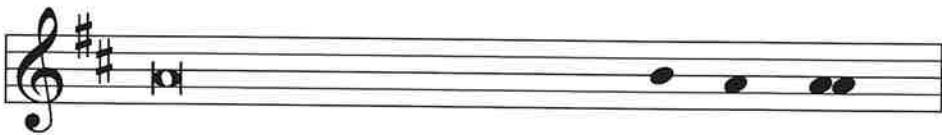
**Common Versicles**



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Choir: Candlelight Christmas Canon**

## Psalm 96: Worship in Splendor and Holiness

Psalm 96



- A** <sup>1</sup>Oh sing to the LORD a | new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!
- C** <sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, | bless his name; \*  
tell of his salvation from | day to day.**
- A** <sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the | nations, \*  
his marvelous works among all the | peoples!
- C** <sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised; \*  
he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.**
- A** <sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are worthless | idols, \*  
but the LORD made the | heavens.
- C** <sup>6</sup>**Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him; \*  
strength and beauty are in his sanctu- | ary.**
- A** <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the | peoples, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength!
- C** <sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name; \*  
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!**
- A** <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness; \*  
tremble before him, | all the earth!
- C** <sup>10</sup>**Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!  
Yes, the world is established; it shall nev- | er be moved; \*  
he will judge the peoples with | equity.”**
- A** <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the | earth rejoice; \*  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
<sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and every- | thing in it!
- C** **Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
<sup>13</sup>before the LORD, | for he comes, \*  
for he comes to | judge the earth.**
- A** He will judge the world in | righteousness, \*  
and the peoples in his | faithfulness.
- Glory be to the father and | to the Son \*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning \*  
is now and will be forever. | Amen.**

## Office Hymn: It Came upon the Midnight Clear

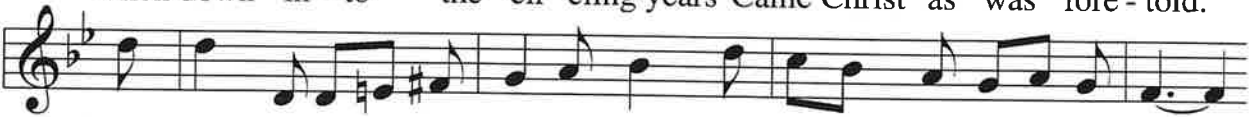
LSB 366



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,  
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
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.  
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:  
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,  
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the 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.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt. Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900 Text and tune: Public domain

## Old Testament

Isaiah 9:2–7

**L** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 9.

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For 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. <sup>7</sup> Of 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.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual**



- P** To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.
- C** **And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,\***  
**Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.**  
**Sing to the Lord a | new song,\***  
**for he has done | marvelous things!**

**Reading**

*Titus 2:11-14*

- L** A reading from Titus, chapter 2.  
<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

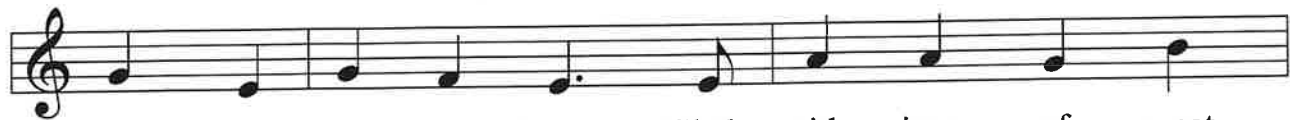
- L** O Lord, have mercy on us.      **C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

*358 sts. 1-5*



- 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
- 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
- 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
- God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
- 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.
- bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.
- in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Verse

*Luke 2:11*

- P** Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David  
**C** a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

## Reading

*Luke 2:1–20*

- L** A reading from Luke, chapter 2.

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

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

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

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

- L** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**Responsory (Advent)**

LSB 230  
To Refrain



**L** 1 Behold, the days  
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise  
up for David a righ-teous Branch.

2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will  
dwell se - cure - ly.

3 Glory be to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



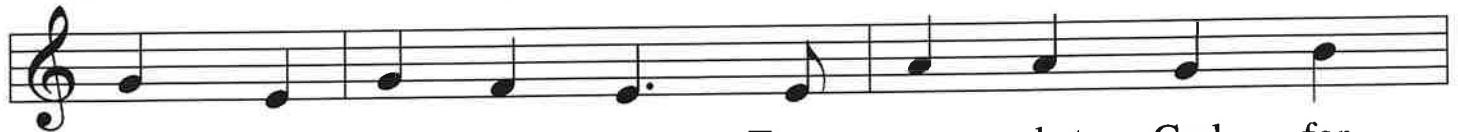
**C** This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

**Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

LSB 358 sts. 6-10



6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the  
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what  
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the  
9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You  
10 Were earth a thou - sand times as fair And set with



shep - herds let us go To see what God for  
in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so  
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my  
are, so poor and small, That You should choose to  
gold and jew - els rare, It would be far too



us has done In send - ing us His own dear Son.  
young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.  
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.  
lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!  
poor and small A cra - dle for the Lord of all.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann  
Text and tune: Public domain

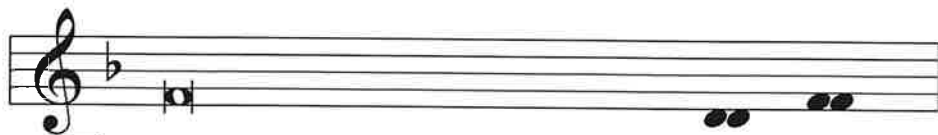
**Sermon**

**Canticle**

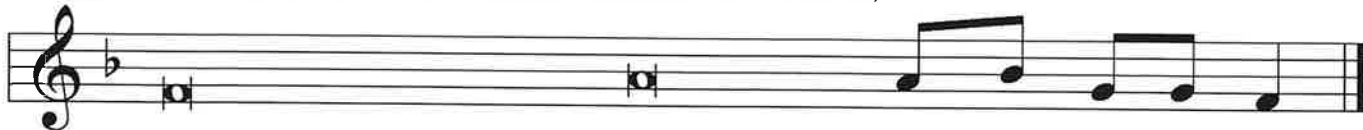
*Stand*

**Antiphon (Common)**

*LSB 231*



**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



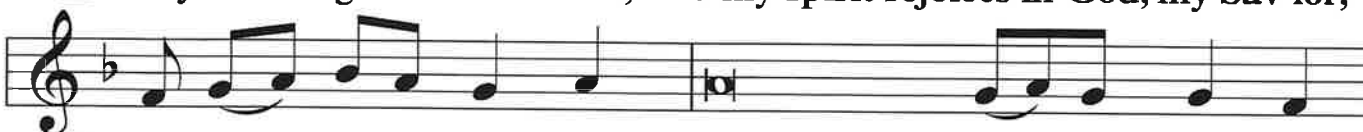
**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**Magnificat**

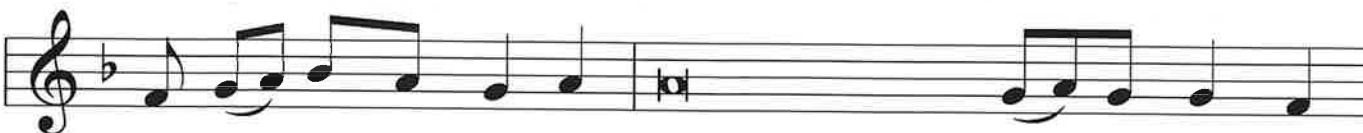
*LSB 231*



**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



**I** for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



**II** For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



**I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



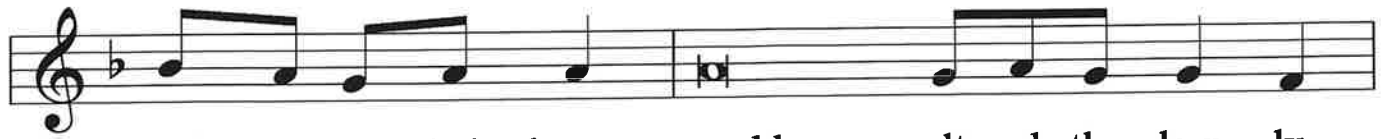
**II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



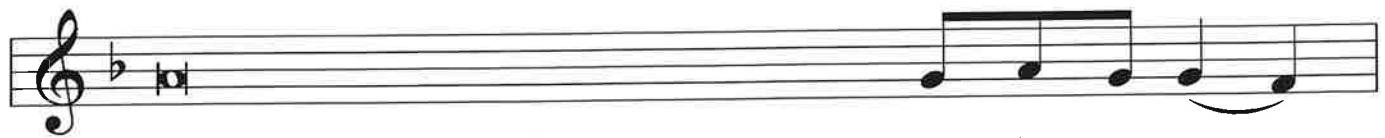
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



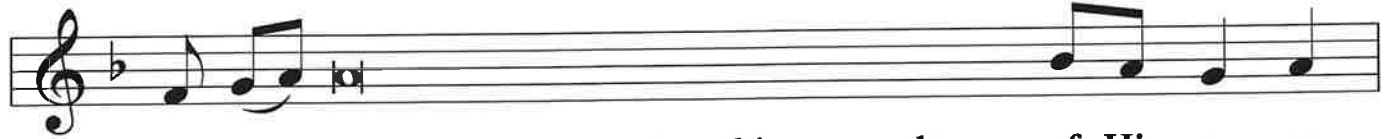
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



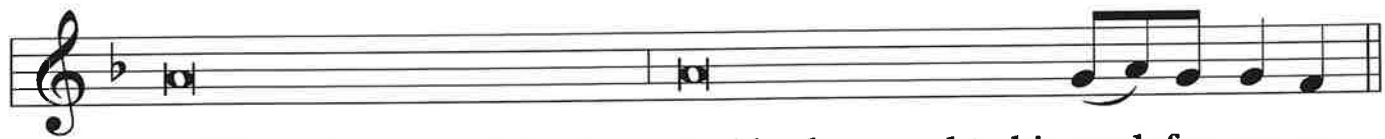
**I** He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



**II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ev - er.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

**Offering: Choir ~ Away in a Manger**

## Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 11–15



11 In - stead of soft and silk - en stuff You have but  
12 And so it pleas - es You to see This sim - ple  
13 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child, Pre - pare a  
14 My heart for ver - y joy must leap; My lips no  
15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to



hay and straw so rough On which as King, so  
truth re - vealed to me: That world - ly hon - or,  
bed, soft, un - de - filed, A qui - et cham - ber  
more can si - lence keep. I, too, must sing with  
us His Son has giv'n! While an - gels sing with



rich and great, To be en - throned in roy - al state.  
wealth, and might Are weak and worth - less in Your sight.  
set a - part For You to dwell with - in my heart.  
joy - ful tongue That sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:  
pi - ous mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Kneel/Stand*

### Kyrie

LSB 233



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

### Lord's Prayer

☐ 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.

## Introduction to Collects

LSB 233



**L** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

## 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.

## Collect for Peace

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Stand*

## Benedicamus

LSB 234



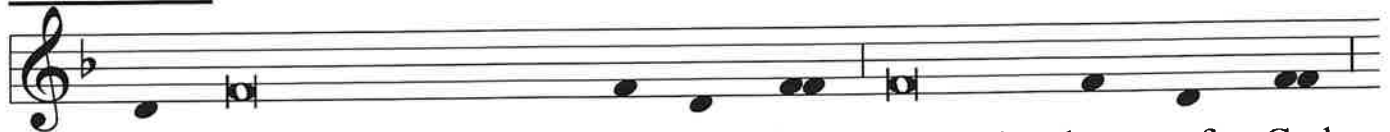
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



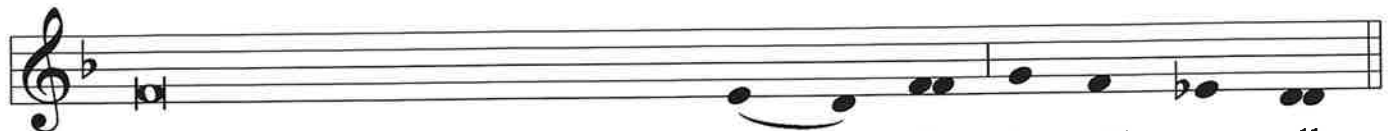
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 234



**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C** A - men.

# Hymn to Depart: Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363 sts. 1-3, 1g



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,  
1 *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*



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  
*ein - sam wacht Nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*



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  
*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, Schlaf in himm - li - scher*



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.  
*Ruh, Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-85

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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**Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9am**

Organist: Sarah Lieske                      Facebook:  
Elder: Jerry Flogstad                      Deacon: Jim Wyffels  
Acolyte: Keian Klinger & Roc Dalgamoni  
Greeter: Arianna Vasser

**NEXT WEEK: December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025:**

**ORGANIST:** Sarah Lieske  
**ACOLYTE:** Kameron Kunkel, Ben Duberstein  
**GREETER:** Charolette Ross  
**RADIO MONITOR:** Ron Wood  
**FACEBOOK:** Cindy Gilmore  
**ELDER:** Jerry Flogstad  
**DEACON:** Jim Wyffels

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**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - (MISSOURI SYNOD)**

314 - 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093

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Church Office Hours (Mon-Fri): 9am-1pm

Email: [stpaulwa@hickorytech.net](mailto:stpaulwa@hickorytech.net)

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Mission Statement

*“Empowered by God’s Word, we joyfully share the Love of Jesus with all people.”*

Vision Statement


*“We will be a vibrant, welcoming church serving the needs of our members, community, and missions by partnering with other churches and organizations while preaching and teaching the inspired Word of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”*

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**SUNDAY MORNINGS (SEPTEMBER- MAY)**

- ✠ Divine Service w/Holy Communion:
    - 9:00 a.m. (also Facebook Live; and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
  - ✠ Adult Bible Study: 10:30 a.m.
  - ✠ Sunday School: 10:15 am – 11:15 am
- Pastor:** Michael J. Grannis  
**Mobile Phone:** 952-686-3046  
**Email:** [revgrannis@gmail.com](mailto:revgrannis@gmail.com)

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