

# A Service of *Lessons and Carols* for the *Christmas Season*



## Concordia Lutheran Church



40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, Connecticut, 06040

### Concordia's *WHY/Purpose Statement*

To be a welcoming and inviting community empowered by the Word of God;  
So that we may work for social justice and exhibit compassion for all

## December 29, 2024

*\*\*Hearing devices for the service are available upon request -  
kindly contact an Usher\*\**

**Introduction to the Service:** *The Christmas season is celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany. Other traditions indicate that Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus on February 2. It has become a still greater challenge to celebrate, as they deserve, the saints of the Christmas season: Stephen, December 26, who was the first to pay with his life for following the incarnate Lord Jesus; John, December 27, who was believed to have lived to great age in profound meditation on the Word made flesh; and the Holy Innocents, December 28, who draw our attention to the plight of children in a world where the implications of the birth of the Christ-child are not yet manifest. Also, New Year's Day, an important date in the civil, rather than the Christian, calendar, provides an occasion for giving thanks to God for the past year, and for committing the coming year into God's safe keeping.*

*January 1<sup>st</sup> has been known as Jesus's name day and recalls his circumcision, marking Mary and Joseph's obedience to the law. Finally, January 6 - Epiphany, is the culmination of the Christmas season, and focuses on the manifestation of God's glory. Today's Lessons and Carols Service draws on these traditions to help us continue our Christmas Celebration, even as we await the coming year. Lessons, carols, and prayer will help us to call to mind these saints and occasions of the Christmas season, as they bid us to continue to ponder the unwrapping of the gift of the Incarnation.*

***We prepare for worship in quiet prayer and meditation***

**The Prelude:**

*Carols for Violin*

*Christa Berezowskyj, Violin*

**The Welcome**

**Homily**

**Pastor Rolf Hedberg**

*All stand as able.*

*Congregational responses are in **bold**.*

**The Dialogue**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

# The First Day of Christmas

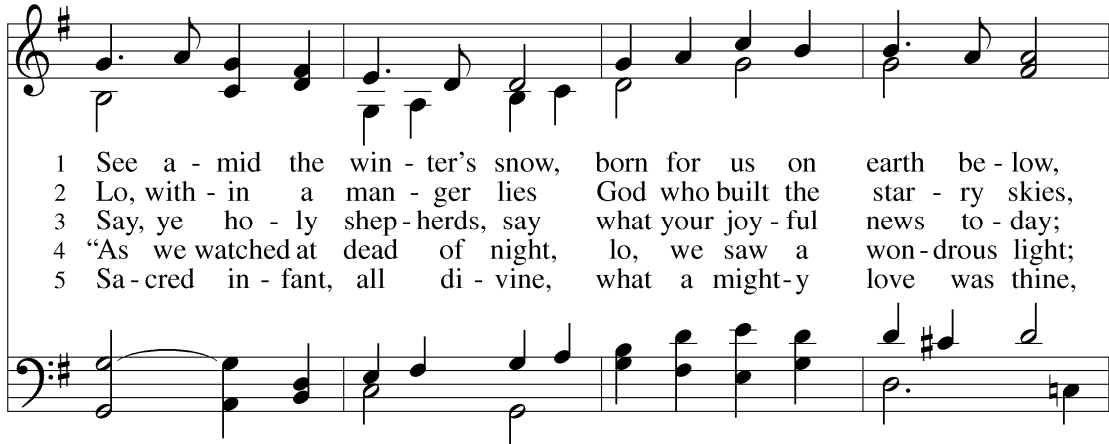
December 25

## The Nativity

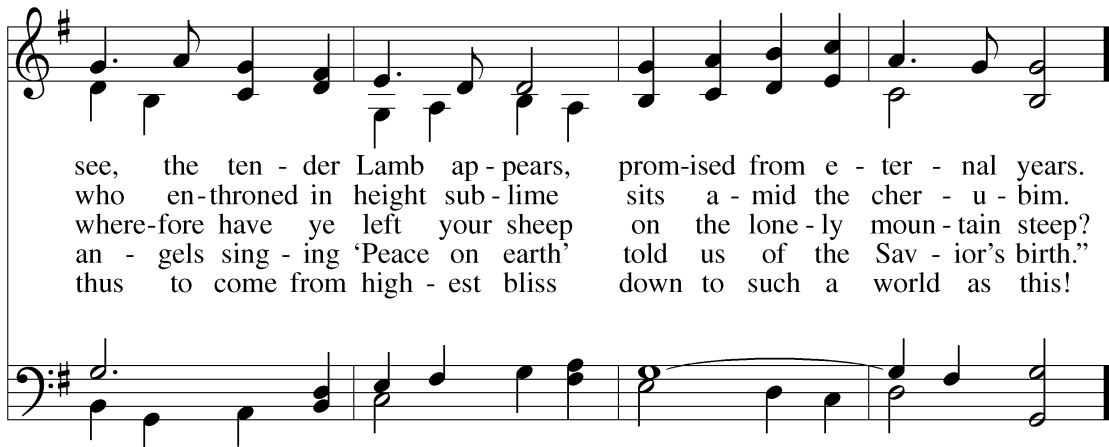
The Processional Carol

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Verses 1-3



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,  
2 Lo, with - in a man - ger lies God who built the star - ry skies,  
3 Say, ye ho - ly shep - herds, say what your joy - ful news to - day;  
4 "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a won - drous light;  
5 Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a might - y love was thine,

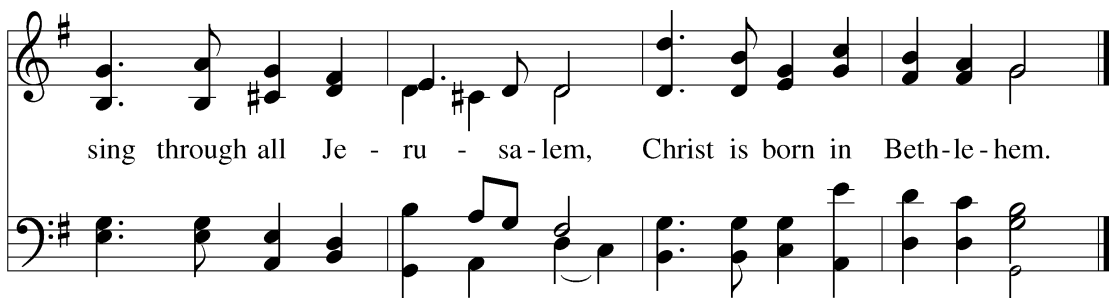


see, the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
who en - throned in height sub - lime sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
where - fore have ye left your sheep on the lone - ly moun - tain steep?  
an - gels sing - ing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Sav - ior's birth."  
thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!

*Refrain*



Hail, thou ev - er bless - ed morn; hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn;



sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

## **The Blessing of the Crèche**

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.  
Come and worship the Lord:  
**for a great light has shone on the earth.**

Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib,  
and that all who worship his Son,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,  
We recall in this season of Christmas that  
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary  
for us and for our salvation:  
bless this crib,  
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring.

**Bring us with the shepherds and the wise men  
to kneel before this holy cradle,  
that we may come to sing with your angels  
your glorious praises in heaven;  
where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
you live and reign, God, world without end.  
Amen.**



The Carol

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Verses 4 & 5

1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,  
 2 Lo, with - in a man - ger lies God who built the star - ry skies,  
 3 Say, ye ho - ly shep - herds, say what your joy - ful news to - day;  
 4 "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a won - drous light;  
 5 Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a might - y love was thine,

see, the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
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 where - fore have ye left your sheep on the lone - ly moun - tain steep?  
 an - gels sing - ing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Sav - ior's birth."  
 thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!

*Refrain*

Hail, thou ev - er bless - ed morn; hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn;

sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

All are seated.

***The Second Day of Christmas***  
***December 26***  
***The Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr***

**The Lesson** *Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60*

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

After saying these things, Stephen concluded, You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold

the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen.

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Look, he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

**The Acclamation**

Stephen, full of grace and power,  
**did great wonders and signs among the people.**

Precious in the sight of the Lord  
**is the death of his saints.**

*All stand as able.*

## The Carol

## *Good King Wenceslas*

Good King Wenceslas look'd out,  
On the Feast of Stephen;  
When the snow lay round about,  
Deep, and crisp, and even:  
Brightly shone the moon that night,  
Though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight,  
Gath'ring winter fuel.

3. "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,  
Bring me pine-logs hither:  
Thou and I will see him dine,  
When we bear them thither."  
Page and monarch forth they went,  
Forth they went together;  
Through the rude wind's wild lament,  
And the bitter weather.

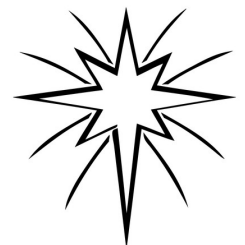
2. "Hither page and stand by me,  
If thou know'st it, telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
Underneath the mountain;  
Right against the forest fence,  
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

4. "Sire, the night is darker now,  
And the wind blows stronger;  
Fails my heart, I know now how,  
I can go no longer."  
"Mark my footsteps, good my page;  
Tread thou in them boldly;  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly.

5. In his master's steps he trod,  
Where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed.  
Wherefore, Christian people, know,  
Who my lay are hearing,  
He who cheers another's woe  
Shall himself find cheering.

## The Collect

Gracious Father,  
who gave the first martyr Stephen  
grace to pray for those who took up stones against him:  
grant that in all our sufferings for the truth  
we may learn to love even our enemies  
and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt,  
looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us,  
Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



*All are seated.*

***The Third Day of Christmas  
December 27  
The Feast of John, Apostle and Evangelist***

**The Lesson** *John 1:1-14*

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And 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.

**The Acclamation**

This is the message we have heard,

**the message we proclaim:**

that God is light.

**In him there is no darkness at all.**

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.**

*All stand as able.*





1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



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!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



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:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## The Collect

Merciful Lord,

cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:

that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,

we may so walk in the light of your truth

that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*All are seated.*

***The Fourth Day of Christmas***  
***December 28***  
***The Holy Innocents, Martyrs***

**The Lesson** *Matthew 2:13-18*

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

**The Acclamation**

Let the little children come to me  
**for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.**  
Whoever does not receive the kingdom of heaven like a child  
**will never enter it.**

*The Assembly remains seated for the Carol.*

## The Carol

1. Lul - ly, lul - la you lit - tle ti - ny child;  
By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay. You lit - tle ti - ny child; Lul -  
- ly, - lul - la; By, by, lul - ly, - lul - - lay.

2. O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day,  
This poor youngling,  
For whom we sing  
By, by, lully, lullay ?

3. Herod the King in his raging  
Charged he hath this day,  
His men of might  
In his own sight,  
All children young to slay.

4. That woe is me, poor Child, for Thee  
And ever mourn and say,  
For Thy parting,  
Nor say nor sing  
By, by, lully, lullay.

## The Collect

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## *The Seventh Day of Christmas*

*December 31*

*New Year's Eve*

### **The Lesson** *Ecclesiastes 3:1-13*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; <sup>1</sup>moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

### **The Acclamation**

A thousand years in God's sight are like a single day.

**Like an evening that has already gone.**

Christ is the first and the last,

**the beginning and the end.**

Jesus stands at the door and knocks.

**Lord Jesus, enter our homes and our lives.**

You hold the key to God's way of justice.

**Open to us your kingdom of peace.**

The Carol

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

ELW 282



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 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, 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 the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time 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 now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



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.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

**The Collect**

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time,  
and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love.  
Grant that in the new year we may know your presence,  
see you love at work, and live in the light of the event  
that gives us joy forever—  
the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*All are seated.*

***The Eighth Day of Christmas***  
***January 1***  
***The Name Day of Jesus (Feast of the Circumcision)***

**The Lesson** *Luke 2:15-21*

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**The Acclamation**

You will name him Jesus;  
**he will save his people from their sins.**  
He will be great;  
**he will be called the Son of the Most High.**  
He will be called Emmanuel:  
**God is with us.**



*The Assembly remains seated for the Carol.*

## The Carol

## What Child is This

ELW 296



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## The Collect

Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son was circumcised  
in obedience to the law for our sake  
and given the Name that is above every  
name:  
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,  
to worship him in the freedom of the  
**Amen.**

Spirit,  
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the  
world;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*The Twelfth Day of Christmas*  
*January 5*  
*Twelfth Night*  
*The Feast of Merrymaking and Mischief and the Visit of the Magi*

**The Lesson** *Matthew 2:1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "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."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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." When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**The Acclamation**

This is the message we have heard from the beginning:  
**that we should love one another.**

Christ is our peace, who has made us one:  
**he has broken down the barriers which divided us.**

*The assembly remains seated for the Carol.*

*During the Carol, the altar is set.*





1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



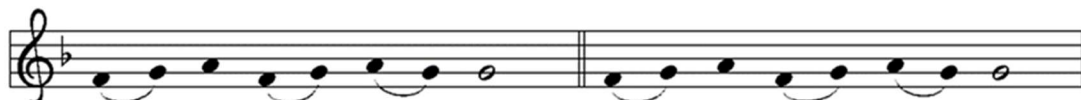
Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

*All stand as able.*

**The Offertory Prayer**

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,  
 who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.  
 As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.  
 With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,  
 we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Dialogue**



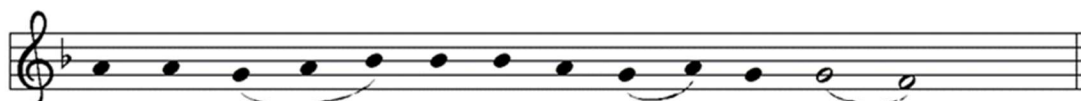
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



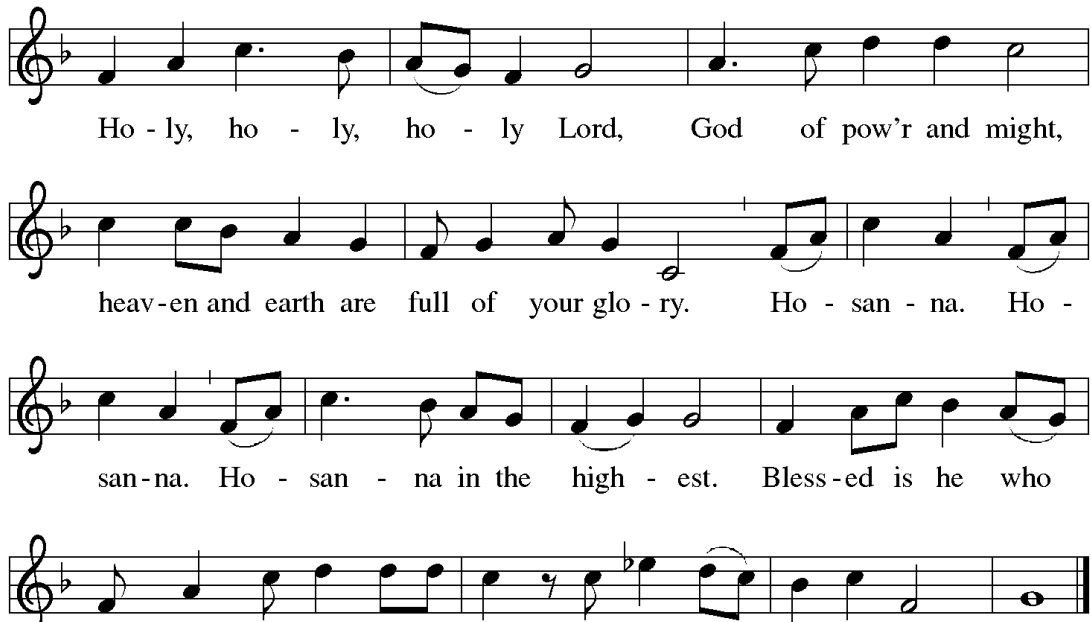
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## The Preface

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.  
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened  
the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vis - ion of your glo - ry,  
that be - holding the God made vis - i - ble,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we can - not see.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

The image shows a musical score for a voice part, consisting of ten staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is written in a simple, clear style, with notes and rests clearly visible. The lyrics are: "It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vis - ion of your glo - ry, that be - holding the God made vis - i - ble, we may be drawn to love the God whom we can - not see. And so, with all the choirs of an - gels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en, we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:"

## The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Again, 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

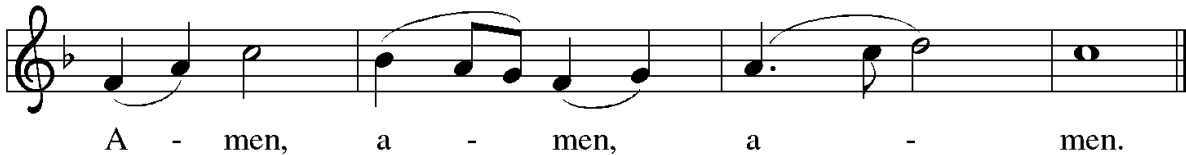
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.



### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Savior taught us, so we pray:

**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**

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' n - ly food.

**Communion Anthem** *Christ is Born to You Today* by Walter Ehret *Christa Berezowskyj, Violin*

### Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.  
**Amen.**

### Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,  
 that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey.  
 As you led the magi by a star,  
 as you brought the holy family home again,  
 guide us on the way unfolding before us.  
 Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim  
 good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Blessing

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.  
**Amen.**

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.  
**Amen.**

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.  
**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## Sending

### Sending Hymn

### *Joy to the World*

ELW 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions 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.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude:

*Music for Christmas For Cello and Violin*

**++ To God Be the Glory ++**

## Serving in Worship Today

*Presiding:* The Dr. Rev. Rolf Hedberg  
*Assisting Minister(s):* Mark Winzler, Candace Wilson  
*Ushers:* Tom Taylor  
*Organist:* Linda Hilliard  
*Violinist:* Christa Berezowskyj

## \*\*\*\*\*Concordia Calendar\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday, Jan. 4	Three Kings Day Event	Manchester High School
Sunday, Jan 5	Epiphany Lessons & Carols	10AM

## DAILY READINGS: January 1 - 7

### Monday, January 1 - Name of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8, Galatians 4:4-7  
or Philipians 2:5-11, Luke 2:15-21

### Tuesday

Psalm 148, Proverbs 1:1-7, James 3:13-18

### Wednesday

Psalm 110, Proverbs 1:20-33, James 4:1-10



### Thursday

Psalm 110, Proverbs 3:1-12, James 4:11-17

### Friday

Psalm 110, Proverbs 22:1-9, Luke 6:27-31

### Saturday - Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

### Sunday

Psalm 110, Exodus 1:22—2:10, Hebrews 11:23-26

## NOTES:

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## PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Contact parish office for Prayer Requests.  
Names will be held in prayer for one month,  
*unless otherwise requested.*



Date Requested	Praying For (person/family)	Prayers For	Requested By
12/11/2024	The family of Mark Waxenburg	As they grieve the passing of Mark Waxenburg	Lanie Turner
12/2/2024	The family of Andy Vincens	As they grieve the passing of Andy Vincens	Jan Salvatore
12/1/2024	Ed Brainerd	Healing from virus	Jane Casserly
11/24/2024	The family and friends of Eleanor Symecko	As they grieve the passing of Eleanor Symecko	Lanie Turner
11/17/2024	The Family of Megan Fleckenstein	As they grieve the passing of Megan Fleckenstein	Joel & Sandra Baranowski
10/27/2024	Robert Feder	<i>Resilience, comfort, and healing amidst profound health challenge since March 2023.</i>	Gail Feder
10/27/2024	Dan Burnett	<i>Strength, comfort, and healing during this significant health challenge.</i>	Carol Burnett

For Concordia's ongoing transition process.

### *The Intentions of this Community:*

- Concordia Nursery School Students and their families
- The work of MACC
- The work of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)
- For our Cub Scout Pack
- For Licensed Lay Minister Beatrice Luciano and Ministerio Nueva Creación
- For Pr. Simpson and the people of New Horizons
- For our friends at Emanuel Lutheran and former members of St. Mary's now merged with St. John's Episcopal Church (Vernon)

Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Rev. Rolf Hedberg, Transition Pastor, Phone: 413-544-4859 (cell) 413-596-8011 (home)

Office Ph: 860-649-5311 Email:office@concordiamanchester.org Web: [www.concordiamanchester.org](http://www.concordiamanchester.org)

Mrs. Margie Gallagher, Parish Administrator Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs., 9 AM-2PM