



Candle Light Service

DECEMBER 24, 2023

HOPE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Welcome

(Jesus is the light of Life! He came to earth to be among us to save us from the darkness of sin and death. His coming changes everything for us! We have much to thank God for this Christmas Eve!)

Preservice Music – Chimes

stand

- P** The Spirit and the Church cries out:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** All those who await His Appearance pray
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- L** The whole creation pleads:
- P** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Vocal Duet: “The First Noel”

Thanksgiving For Light

L Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ: may His Works be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

(Sit)



See amid the Winter's Snow

LSB 373



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



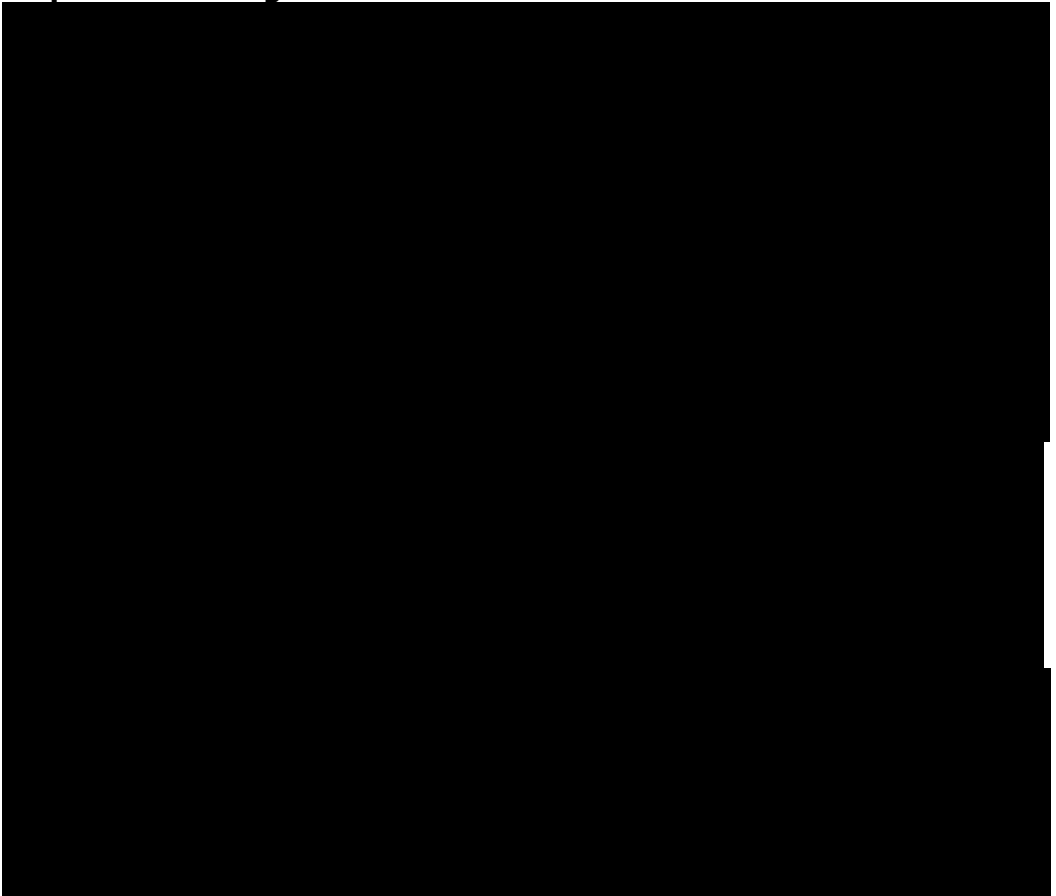
Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Public domain

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.



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

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

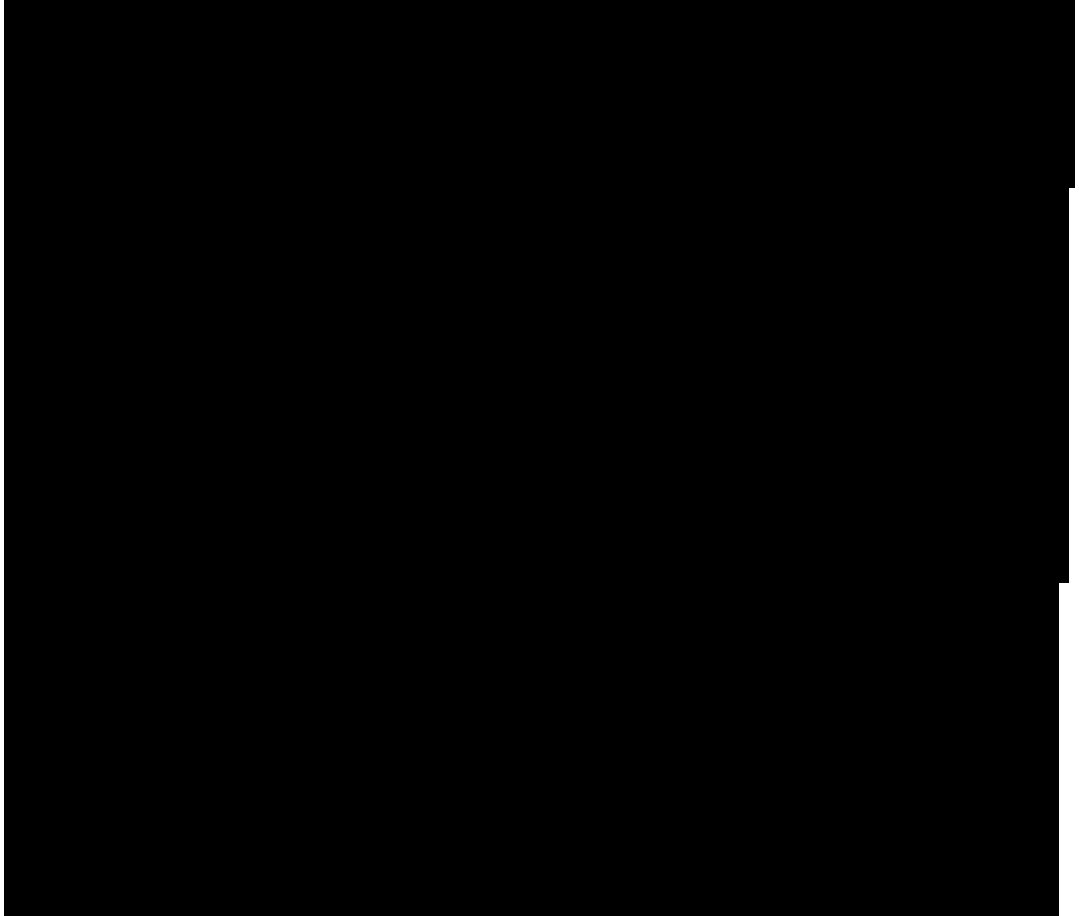
In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us

and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47
Text and tune: Public domain

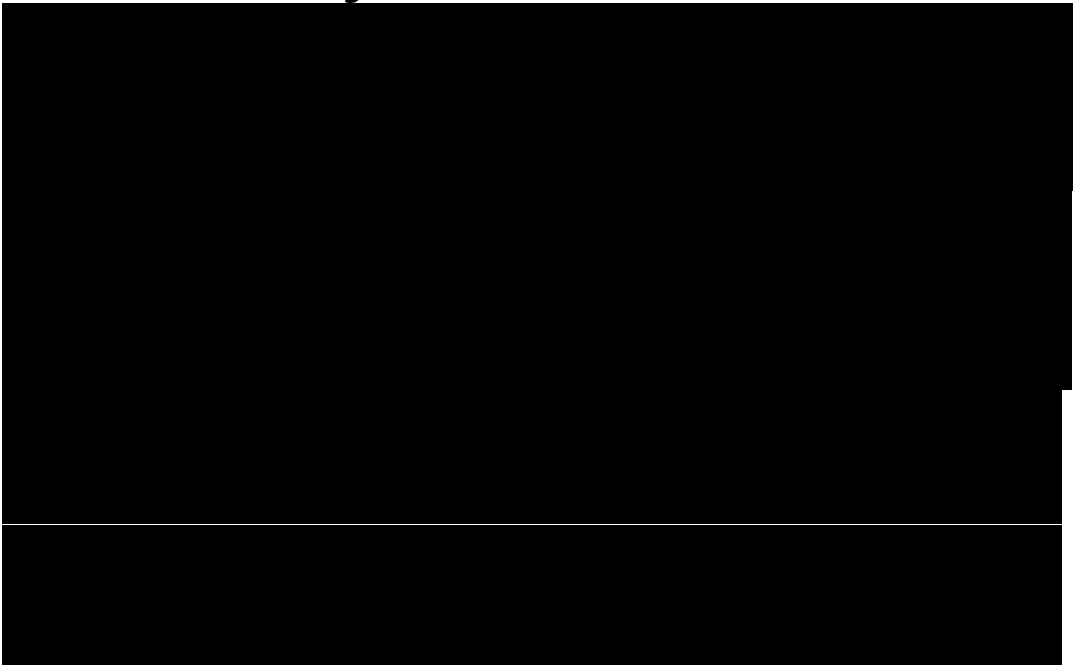
THIRD READING

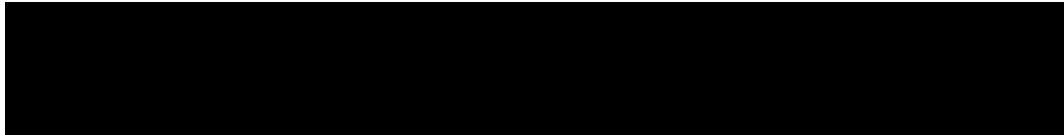
Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



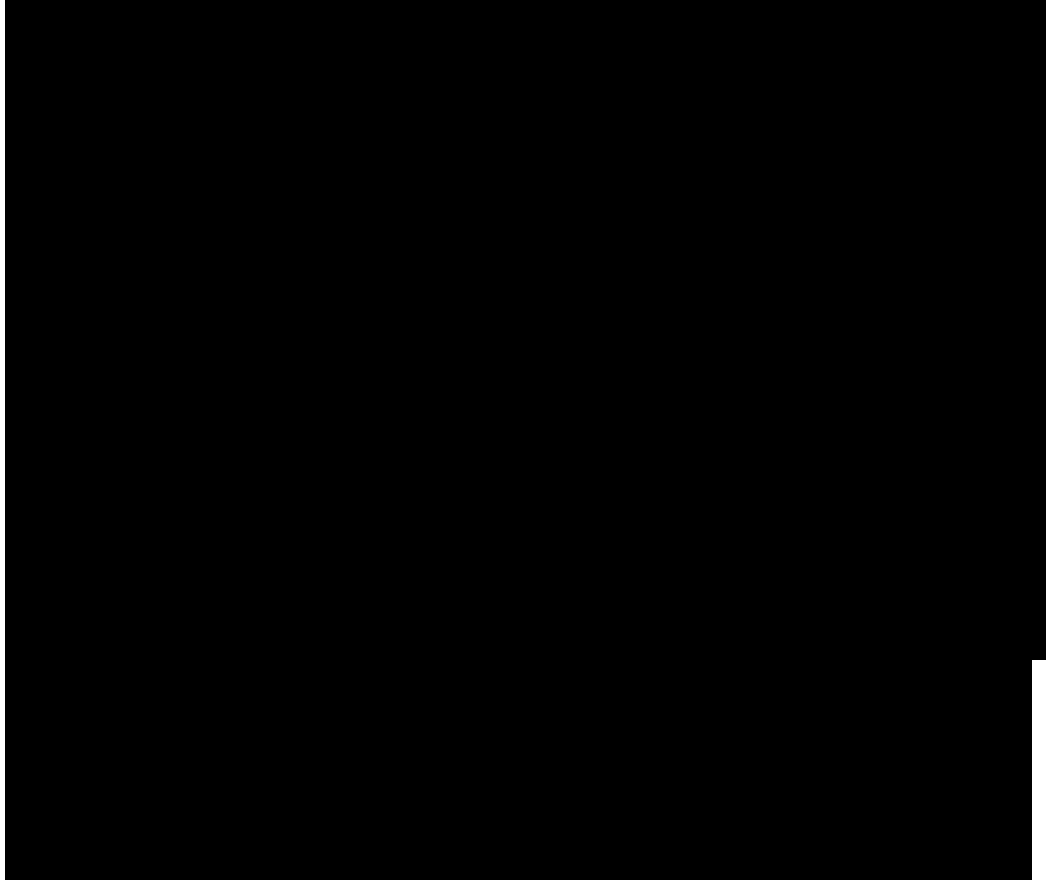


Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.
Text and tune: French
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Joy to the World

LSB 387



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

(stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

+ PRAYER +

P Let us pray for people all over the world, who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick in body and mind and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children, and all those who do not know the loving kindness of the Lord Jesus.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no

one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple.

And let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all His people and giving reverence to all that He has made.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the words which Christ himself taught us:

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.**

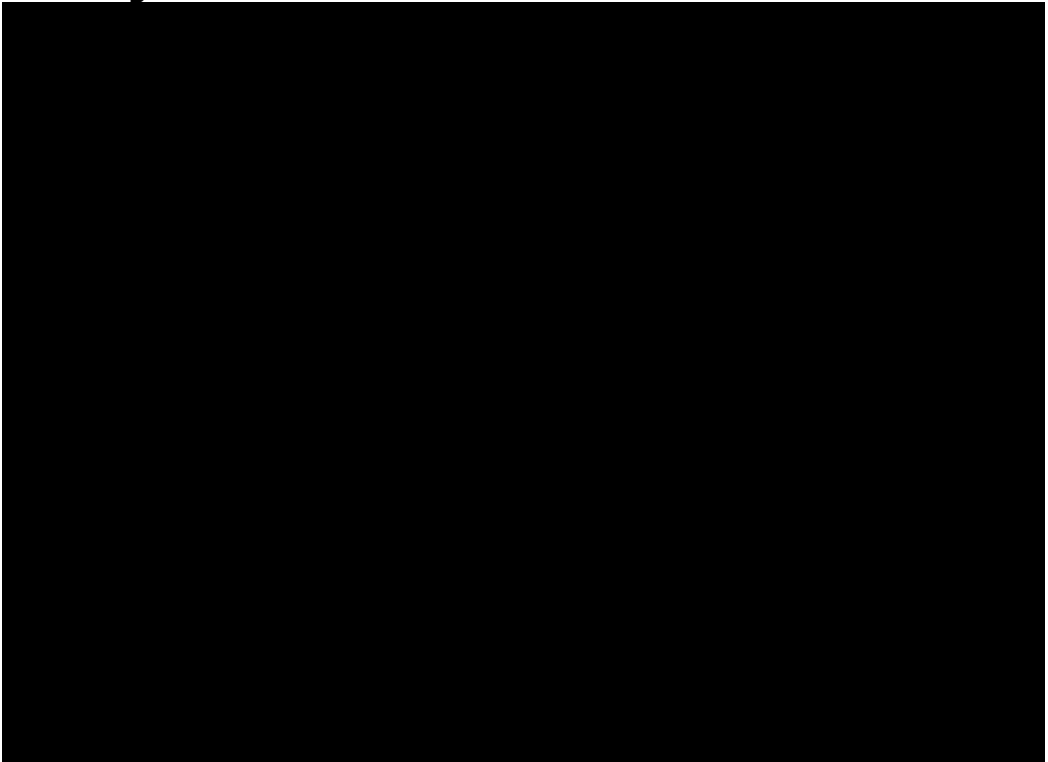
BENEDICTION

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

(Sit)

(The Advent candles are extinguished, but the light is then distributed among the congregation, symbolizing that Jesus, the Light of the World, is with us now and forever.)



Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921
Text and tune: Public domain

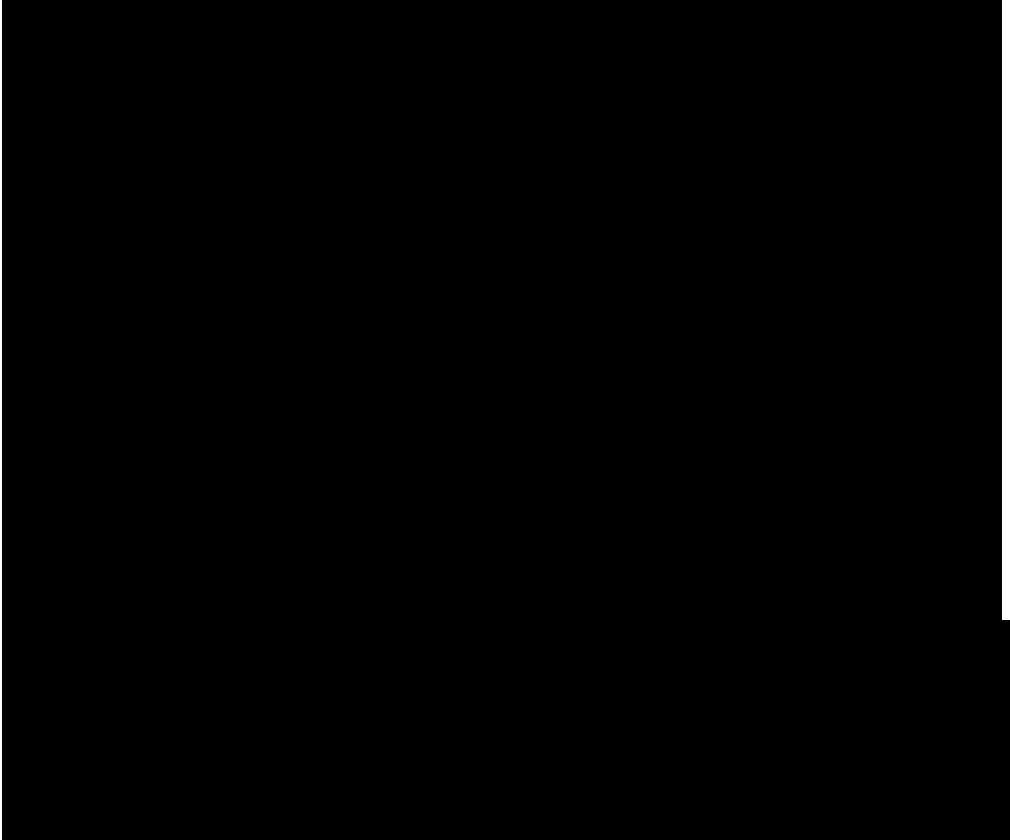
READING*Isaiah 60:1–5, 18–20*

P Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you

light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363 sts. 1–3, 1g



Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85
Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863
Text and tune: Public domain

(Please extinguish your candles and return them to the box in the Narthex.)

Postlude: 'Light One Thousand Candles Bright' (Swedish Carol) - Chimes

**YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH US THE BIRTH OF JESUS
AT OUR CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE (10:30 AM)**

O Holy Night



MERRY CHRISTMAS