

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

... We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture ...

Psalm 100:3



December 29th – First Sunday of Christmas

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.

God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection.

We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.

In keeping with our welcome, Good Shepherd is a *Reconciling in Christ* partner congregation, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. We are an AMMPARO *Welcoming Congregation* - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

The Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero Energy use.

Welcome guests! There is more information for you on the back of the bulletin.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Evangelical Lutheran Worship-ELW (red book)

All Creation Sings – ACS (purple book)

Page numbers (P.) in front of the red hymnal, (#) in back of ELW/ACS
congregational responses in **bold**; rise in body or spirit when indicated by *

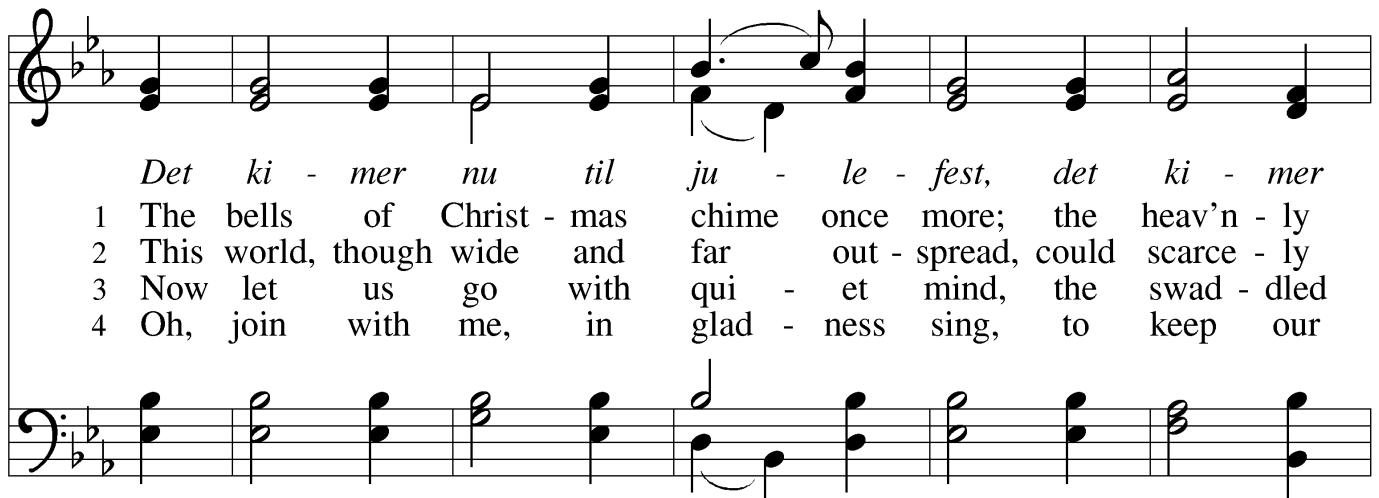
GATHERING

PRAYER BELL – PRELUDE

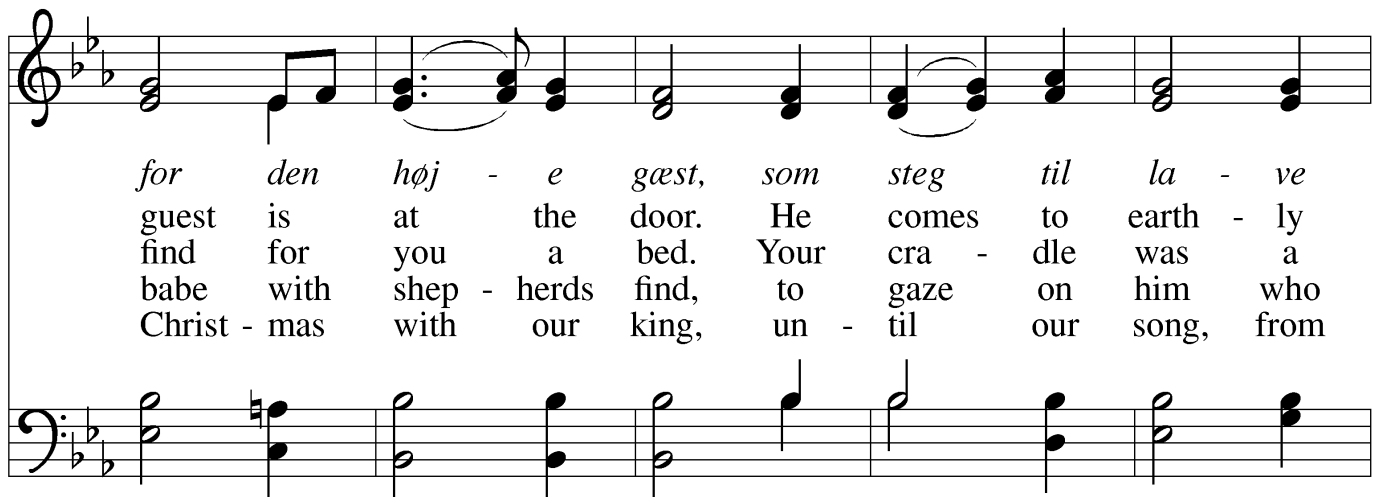
The prelude is a time when we allow the musical offering to quiet our hearts and minds as we prepare for worship.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #298 “The Bells of Christmas” vs. 1, 3 4



Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from

hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

OPENING DIALOGUE:

Come! Look upon the baby Jesus,
 cradled in the arms of his mother.

**Seeing this wondrous sight,
 may our hearts be comforted
 and our spirits filled with peace.**

Come! Listen to choirs of angels
 announcing good news to all people.

**Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing:
 Glory to God in the highest!**

Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart,
 not as history but as a gift.

**Opening our hearts to this great mystery,
 may Christ be born in us today.**

***GREETING:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Let us pray... **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

⁹ mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,

princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹² **young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful
servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.

⁴ When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:22-40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #417 "In His Temple Now Behold Him"**

1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less

pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en

God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther

his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

***APOSTLES' CREED:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *Each petition ends: ... God of grace, hear our prayer.*

***PEACE OF CHRIST:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary.

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***OFFERTORY SONG: ELW #286 "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"**

1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with

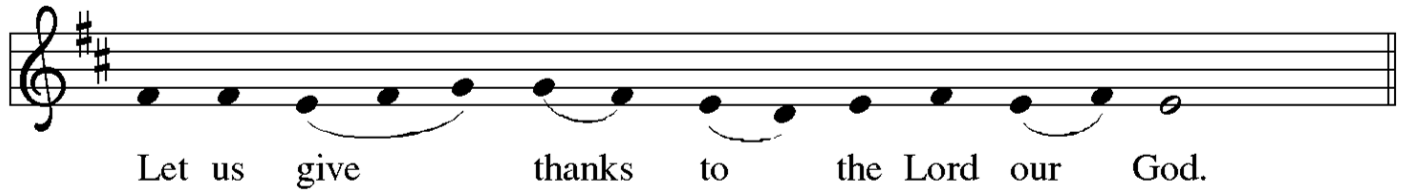
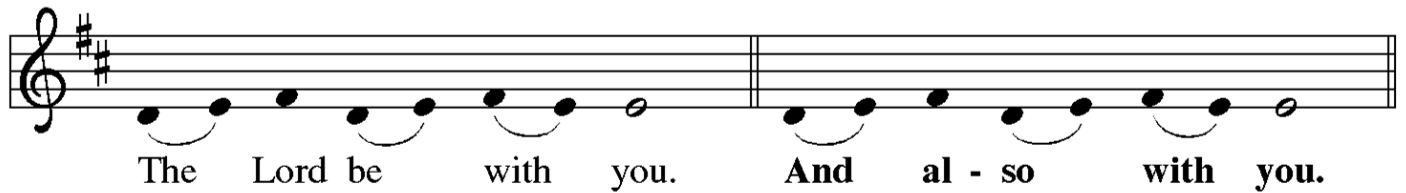
come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our

soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

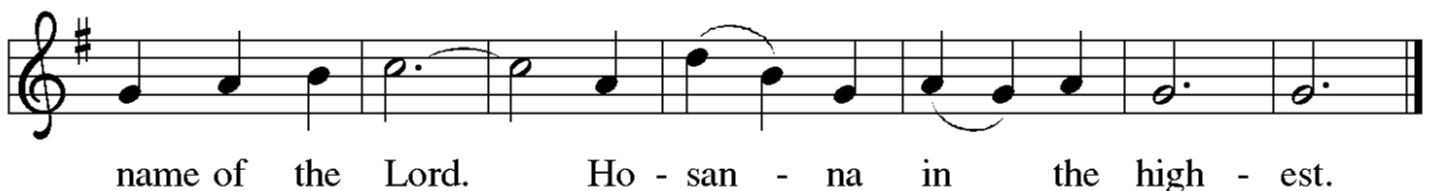
Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.
Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800

***OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray... Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:**



It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:



***WORDS OF INSTITUTION – THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: Our Father...**

HOLY COMMUNION:

- *All are welcome at Christ's table.*
- *Ushers will direct you down the center aisle.*
- *Gluten and dairy free bread and red wine/white grape juice are available to all.*
- *Egg-free wheat wafers are also available*
- *If you prefer only a blessing, indicate by placing your hands over your heart.*
- *Please place your cup in the tray as you return to your pew.*

COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW #277 "Away in a Manger"

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

ELW #294 "In the Bleak Midwinter" vs. 2 & 3

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

ELW #300 "The First Noel" vs. 1 & 2

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain

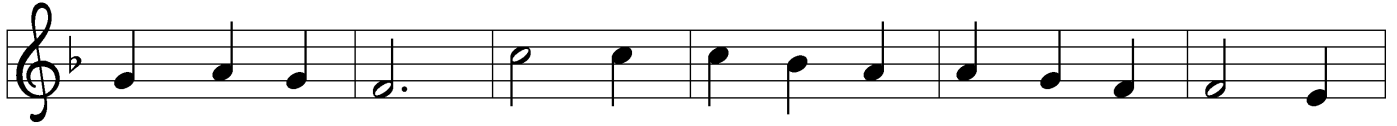
night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

ELW #292 "Love Has Come"



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the

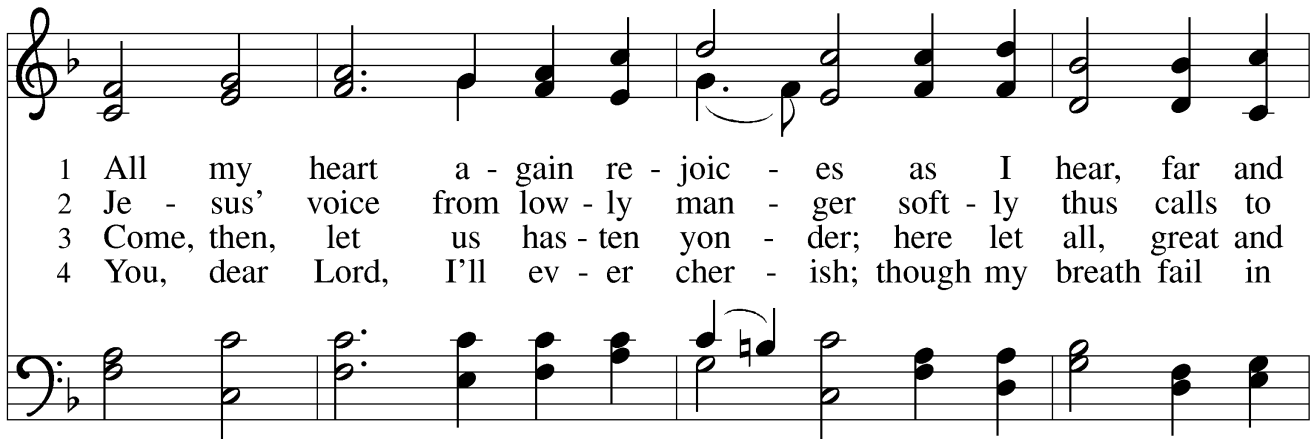


you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950
Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856
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ELW #273 "All My Heart Again Rejoices"



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
 2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
 3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
 4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
 us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
 small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
 death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
 grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
 yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
 ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

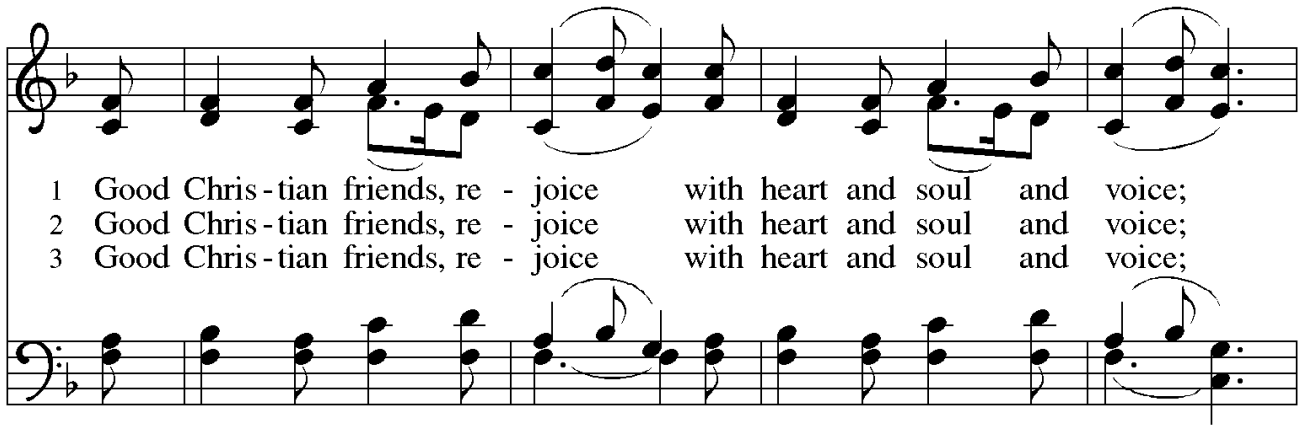
Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: WARUM SOLLT ICH, Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–1676

TABLE BLESSING – PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION


SENDING

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

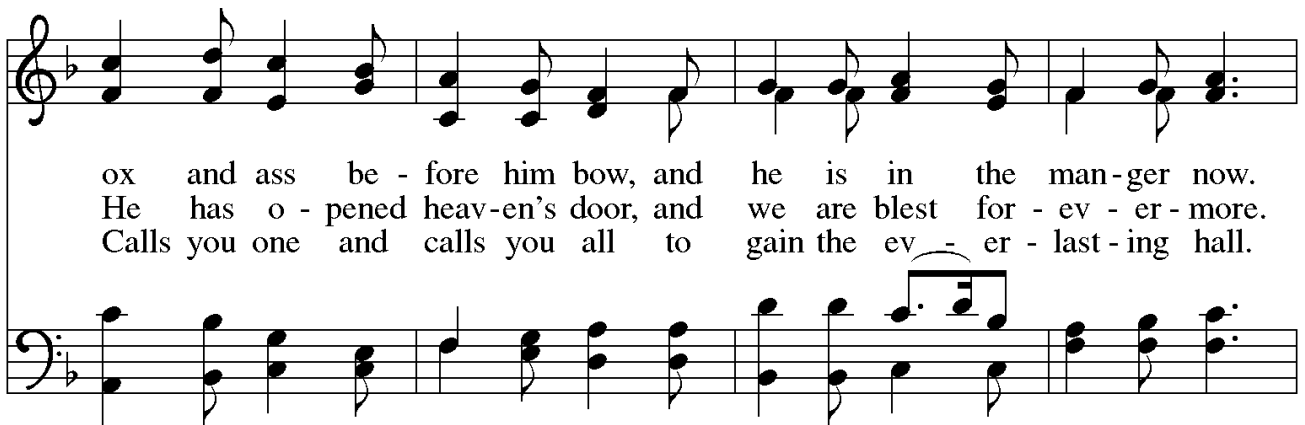
***BLESSING – SENDING SONG: ELW #288 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER BELL – POSTLUDE

The postlude sends us out for service in the world. Feel free to use this time in any way that helps to send you out!

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Today's Opening Dialogue and Blessing were written by Pastor Marion Pruitt-Jefferson and published in the 2025 Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: PRESIDING & PREACHING:

Pastor April Ulring Larson; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; USHERS: Christ Johnson, John Moeller; GREETER: Amelia Kurth; READER: Anne Clausen; ASSISTING MINISTER: Jane Jakoubek; AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Aidan Nalean-Carlson; FELLOWSHIP: Lindy Moeller, Marty Steele, George Lowe.

PLEASE HOLD OUR GOOD SHEPHERD CALL COMMITTEE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Megan Buckingham (Convener), Anne Clausen, Steve Holland, Karin Martin-Hiner, Bob Larson, and Leah Holland.

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: 9 AM – 12 PM Monday, Thursday, Friday

The office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday for New Year's.

Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Praying for others is a cherished ministry that everyone can participate in at any time. There are no time constraints to our care for others as we offer their needs up to God.

People on the prayer list are welcome to remain there for as long as is needed.

Those with health concerns:

- Marilyn Anderson
- Jon Wendling
- Helen Hermeier
- James Barth
- Ginny Olson
- Stephanie Hoff
- Wanda Rueber
- William Kurth
- Stacey Nalean-Carlson
- Mickey Slind
- LaVerne Ramsey
- Scott Ulring
- Phillip Swanson, son of Ted & Joann Swanson and brother of Kristin Swanson
- Harland Nelson
- Dennis Martin, Marv & Mickey Slind's brother-in-law
- Ingrid Callaghan
- Carrie Solberg
- Jutta Anderson

Those who grieve:

- Liz Fritz and family, upon the memorial service for her mother Janet Gall on Saturday, December 28th.
- Sarah Wicks and family, upon the death of her grandfather Bob Fahrenkrug on Saturday, December 21st.
- Norma Refsal and family, upon the death of her husband Harley Refsal on Sunday, September 8th.
- Laurie Biedermann, Linda Martin, and all the family of Millard Nelson upon his death on Saturday, September 7th.

Those serving the needs of others:

- Martha Monson Lowe
- Maryn Olson, Director of Lutheran Disaster Response
- Kathryn Thompson as she serves higher education students through LuMin in La Crosse

To have a prayer request added to the Prayer List, please email Tristan/Erica at: office@goodshepherddecorah.org

Good Shepherd Worship Schedule

Today, Sunday, December 29th: 1st Sunday of Christmas

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion;

Presiding/Preaching: Pastor April Ullring Larson

Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall; Green Flock

Sunday, January 5th: 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion;

Presiding/Preaching: Pastor April Ullring Larson

Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall; Blue Flock

Sunday, January 12th: 15th Anniversary of Haiti Earthquake

Worship at 9:30 am; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion;

Preaching: Pastor Mike Blair

Coffee/Treats/Social Time: 10:30-11:30 am; Fellowship Hall; Blue Flock

Sunday School programming **resumes** after winter break!

Youth Group (7-12 grade) in Fellowship Hall – 3-6th In the Library – Pk-2nd Grade in Sanctuary

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS and especially to Luther College Students! It is a joy to worship with you. You are welcome to enjoy really great coffee, juice, treats, and conversation down the hall after worship – follow the crowd. Sit anywhere!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION. It is Christ's table and Christ is the host. Instructions are included in the communion section of the Order of Worship.

THE PRESENCE, ENERGY, AND NOISE OF CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME HERE!

The sound of a child in worship is the sound of a new Christian being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. A nursery with toys and activity bags is available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works.

RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: This Statement was approved at the annual meeting of the congregation on February 6th, 2022. It was developed through the work of the Racial Justice Team which held listening sessions with the congregation. Find the full statement at goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement or by scanning the code.



We proclaim that God has created the diversity of humankind in God's image and we are all equal and beloved children of God. Racism and white supremacy are evils that estrange us from one another, from God, and from the fullness of our humanity. (*Genesis 1:27a*)

We are in need of liberation from the sins of racism and white supremacy. (*Romans 3:23*)

We confess by what we have done and left undone that we have perpetuated systems of racial injustice and violence. (*Micah 6:8*)

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

Pastor April Ulring Larson
(563) 217-0741
pastorapril@goodshepherddecorah.org
Brooke Joyce; *Music Director*
Tristan Occhipinti; *Office & Building Manager*
Mike Sammons; *Custodian*



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