Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

"My eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples"

First Sunday of the Nativity of Our Lord
December 20, 2020

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Pastor's Greeting

Invocation *Matthew 28:19b*

(*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*)

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may love You and magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Exhortation *1 John 6-10*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

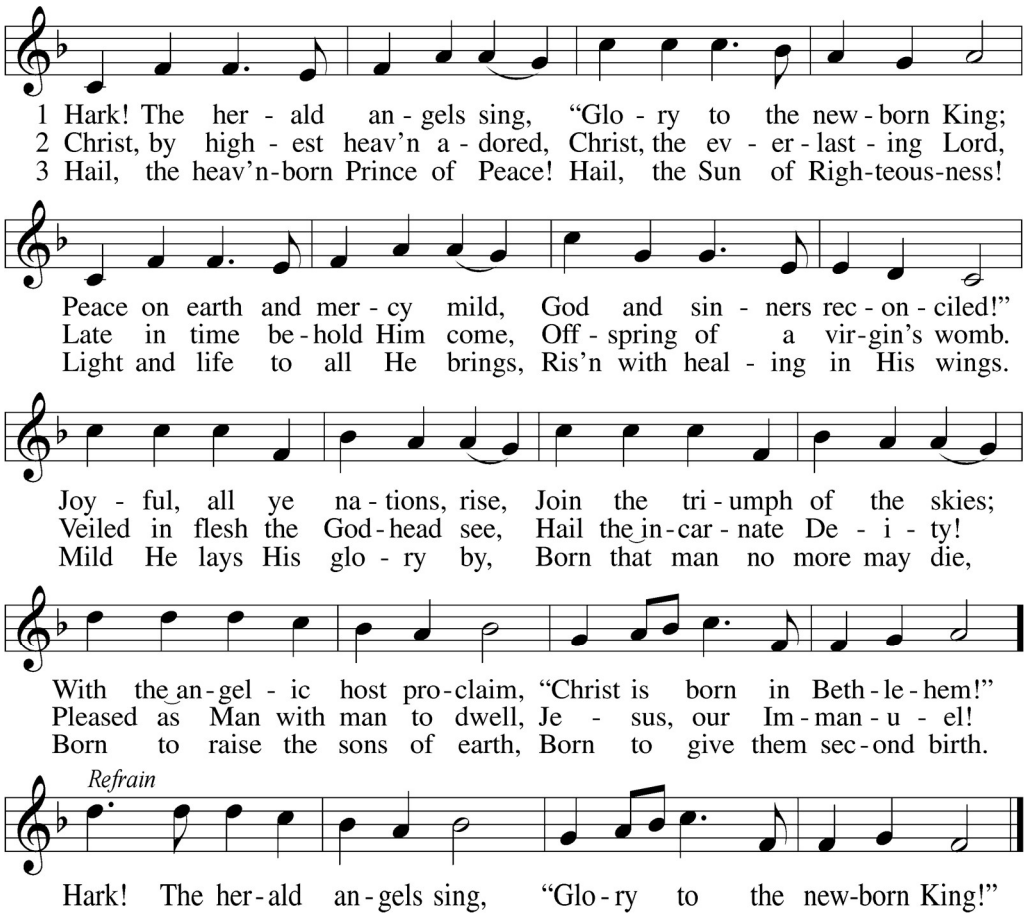
P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION *John 20:21*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING *LSB 380 STZ.1-3*

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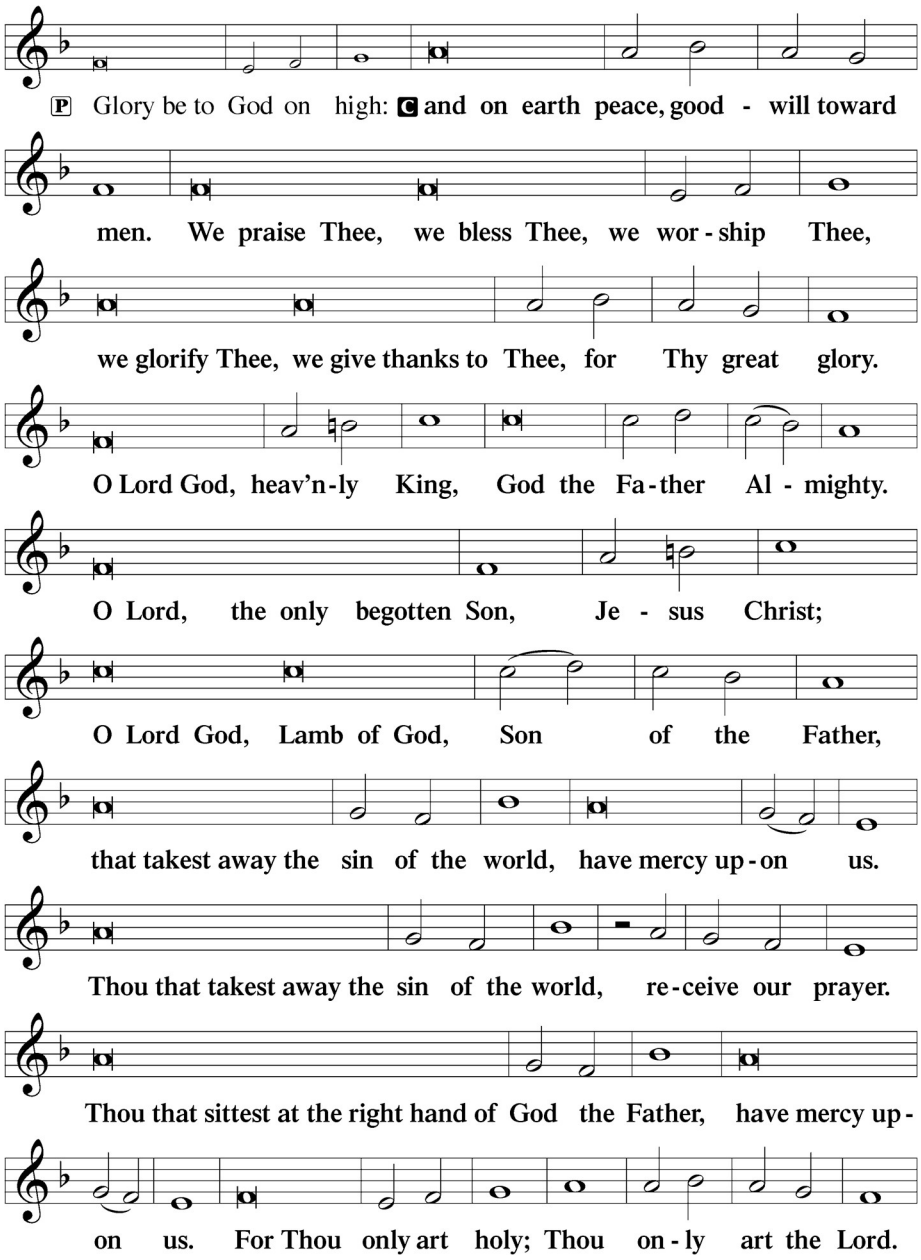
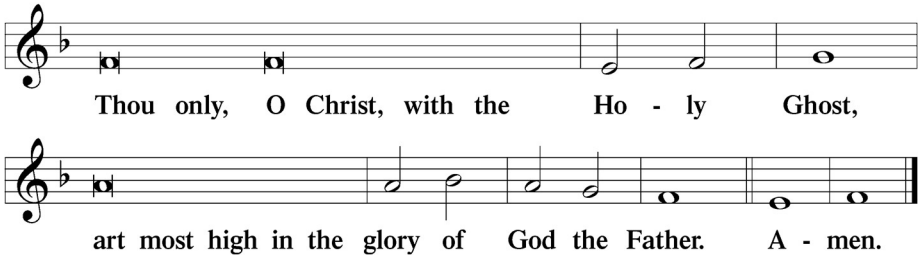
THE INTROIT

P: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

C: The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 187* *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray*: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT — PSALM 111; ANTIPHON: V. 9B-10

Reader: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered, the LORD is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers his covenant forever. He has shown his people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. He sent redemption to his people; He has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is His name! The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

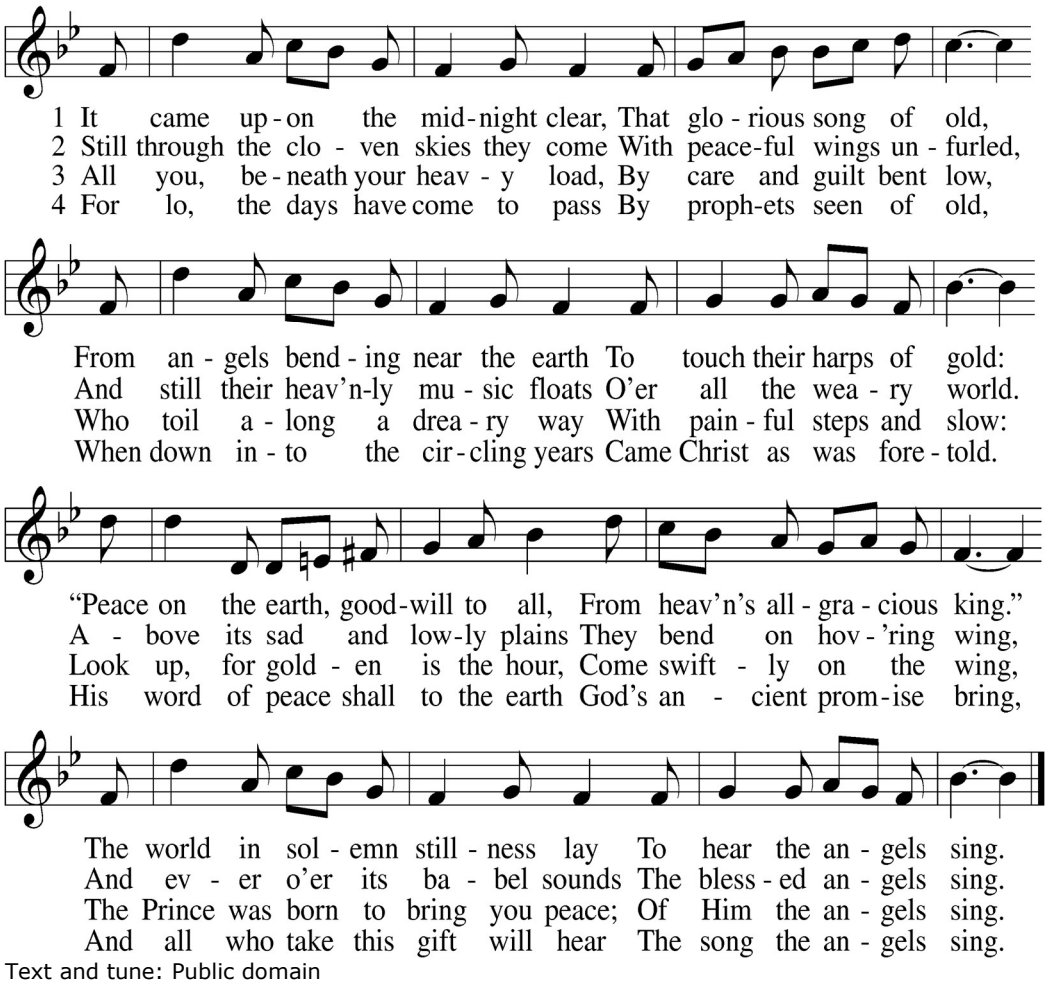
R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE GRADUAL — *Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

P: 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,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

HYMN IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR *LSB 366 STS.1-4*

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THE EPISTLE READING FROM THE BOOK OF GALATIANS 4:4–7

Reader: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *LSB 156*

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 2

C: Glory to You O Lord!

P: When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;
> for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of
> all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And His father and mother marveled at what was said about Him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

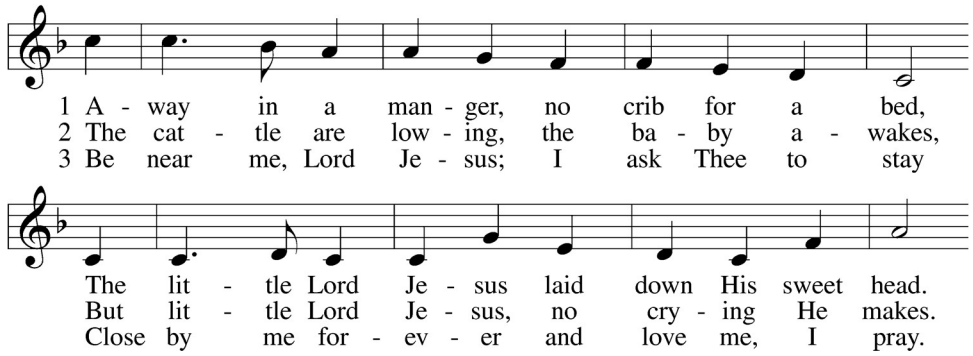
And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

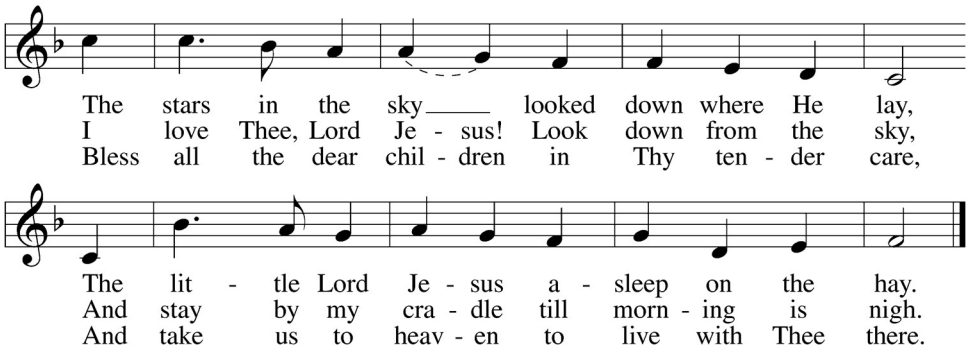
And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ!

SERMON HYMN **AWAY IN A MANGER** ***LSB 364 STS.1-3***





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SERMON ***"The Christmas Light"***

THE NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

As we celebrate the holy gifts and blessings God has given to us, please pray concerning your first fruits offering of thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer requests may be submitted online at www.FamilyofChristLutheranAZ.org or emailed to Pastor@familyofchristlutheranaz.org or Prayer@familyofchristlutheranaz.org)

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Eternal Lord God, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs. Hear us, Father, as we call to You in His name. Give us grace to rejoice in Christ's blessed incarnation, and grant us a glad new year. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood on earth is named, bless the families of all Christians with Your promises. Give parents diligence and delight in their work, and grant Your favor on all children, that they may grow in strength and wisdom. Bless all widows, orphans and broken families also with Your mercy, and give them joy in the redemption You have won for us in Christ. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Lord, receive our prayers for those who suffer from loneliness. Comfort them with the sure and certain knowledge that they will never be forsaken by You. Give them family and friends within the household of faith with whom they can find loving companionship. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Lord, help the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers: Gerri, Inge, the Bakers, Nick Wirtz, Carrie, Lisa, and all those we name in our hearts: _____. Surround them with Your love in Christ and, according to Your gracious will, heal them. Comfort all those who mourn: **Dave von Tersch, Ann Schmid, Peter Spallek**, and others in our hearts: _____; fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

CLOSING COLLECT

P: *Let us pray*: Holy and Almighty God, in the hearing of Your Word this morning You have blessed us with heavenly and eternal treasures. Cause us by Your Holy Spirit to wait in confidence and

patience for Your Son's return and to never grow weary in doing good. Open our eyes to see the Salvation You have prepared for us, and that our joy in receiving this gift will be a witness and light to those who continue to live in darkness. Keep us steadfast in this true faith as we wait in hopeful expectation of the second coming of our Lord.

All: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

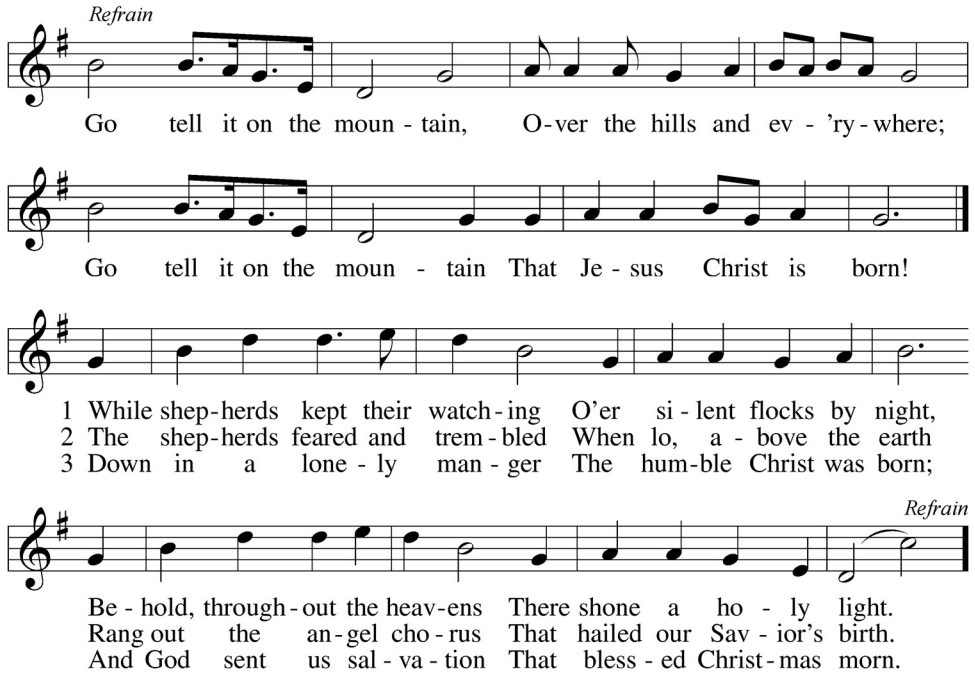
C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 228*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

DEPARTING HYMN **GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN** ***LSB 388 STS.1-3***



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Serving at Family of Christ

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Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

12/27– 1/3

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship *(no communion)*

No Bible Study today

Next Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

No Bible Study this Sunday

PLEASE NOTE*: Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer