HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 25, 2021
CHRISTMAS DAY

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: **O Jesus, our Savior, our King and our Great High Priest, as we remember and celebrate Your first coming as an infant, we eagerly await Your second coming in glory. Come to us even now as we break bread together. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION

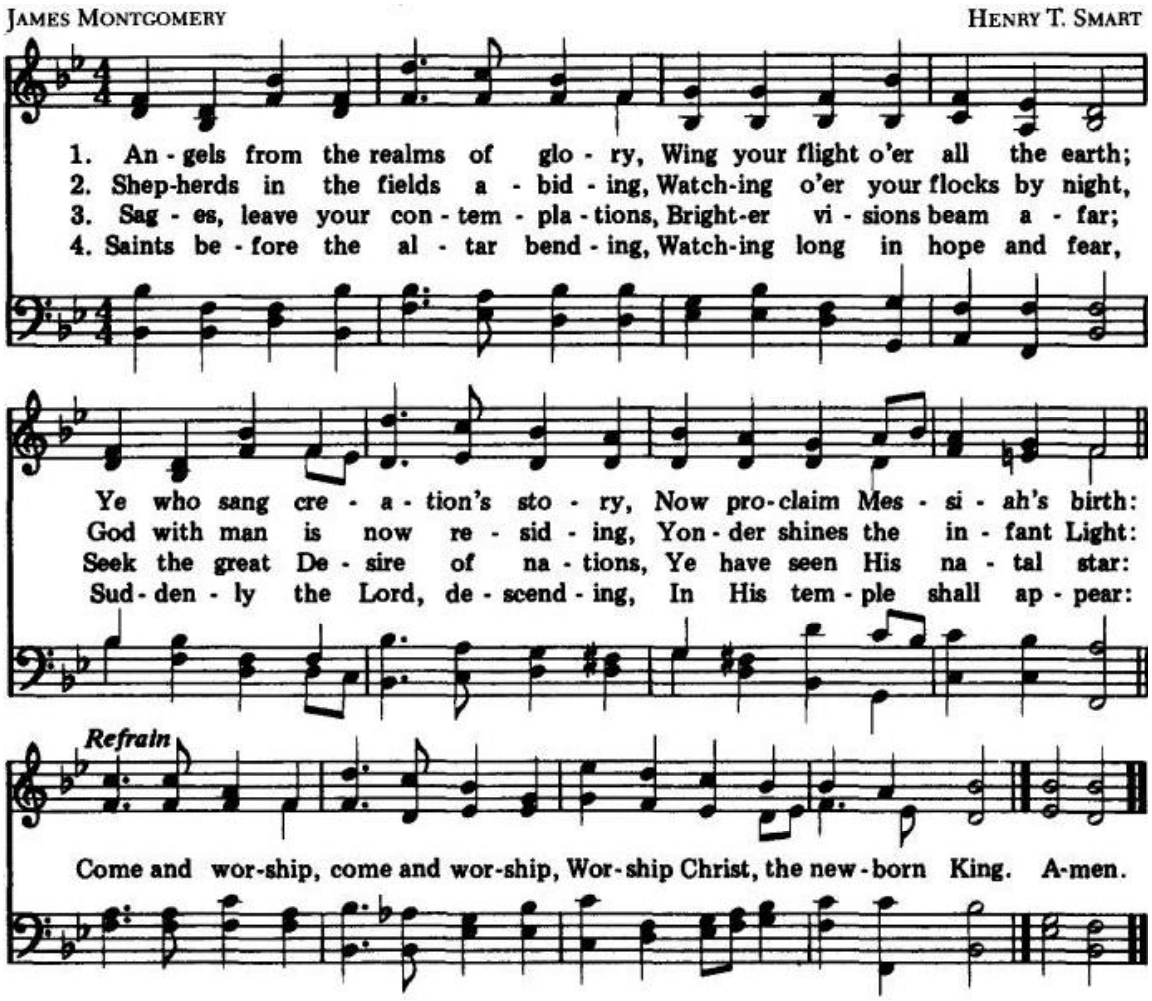
On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear; the light shines in the darkness. In the liturgy we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

WELCOME AND MEDITATION

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

GATHERING CAROL *(Please rise.)*

"Angels From the Realms of Glory" (Maj # 155) →



INVOCATION (✠ = *All may make the sign of the cross.)*

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: AMEN.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness

(Please kneel.) *Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: God of grace and truth, **C: we confess that we have loved the works of darkness more than Your light. We have sought to satisfy our deepest longings through material things of creation rather than through You, our Creator. We are quick to judge others, yet we fail to see our own failings. Restore us, O God, that we may live in the fullness of Your grace and love. Let Your face shine on us, that we may be saved. AMEN.**

P: The angel said, you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you

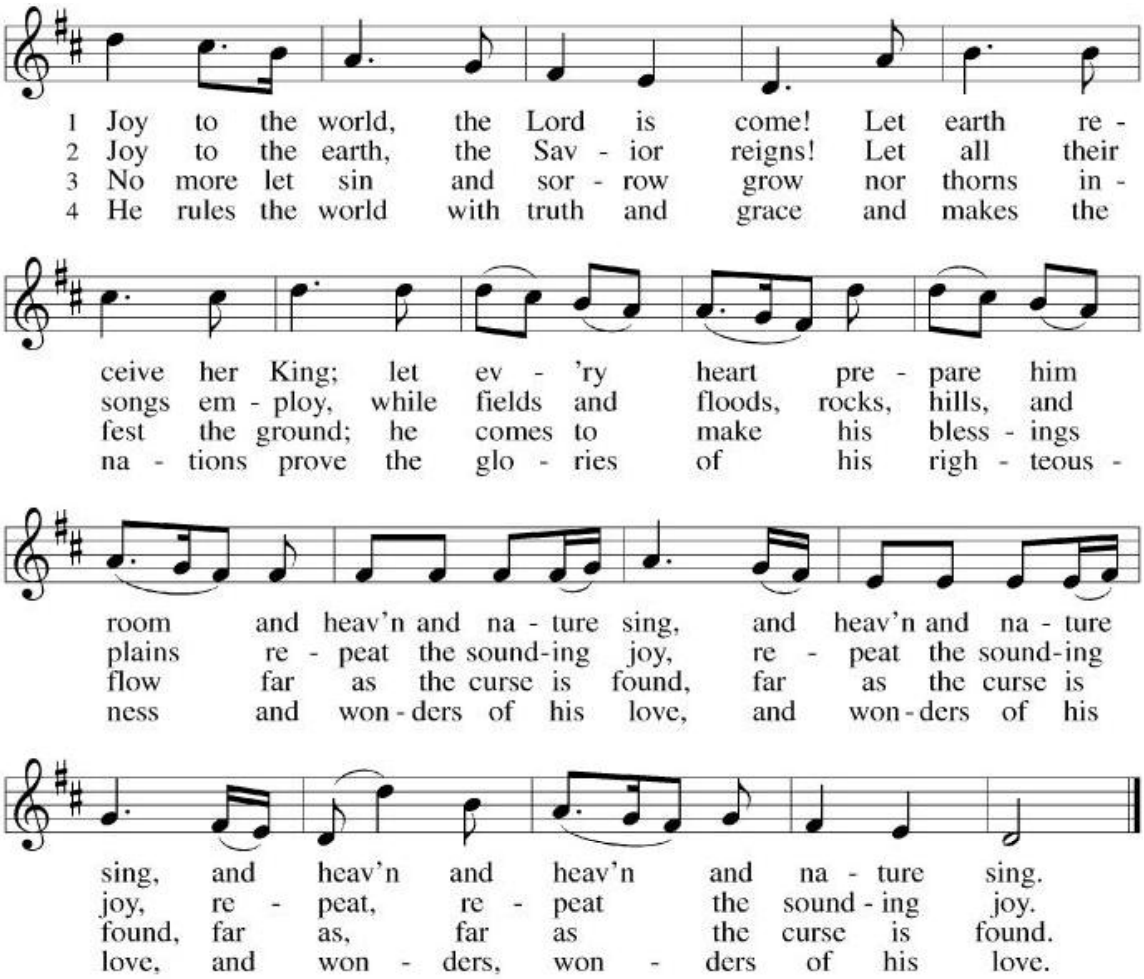
the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: AMEN.**

GREETING *(Please rise.)*

P: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

CAROL *"Joy to the World" (SBH # 15)*



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, George F. Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together: **C: All powerful and unseen God, the coming of Your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.**

RESPONSIVE READING….Psalm 98 *(congregation: **indented**)*

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.
The LORD has made His salvation known
and revealed His righteousness to the nations.
He has remembered His love
and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
let them sing before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

CAROL *"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" (Maj # 163)*

1 **Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;**
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 **Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;**
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3 **Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;**
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

(Please sit.)

FIRST READING….Isaiah 52:7-10.....Pew Bible p. 1144

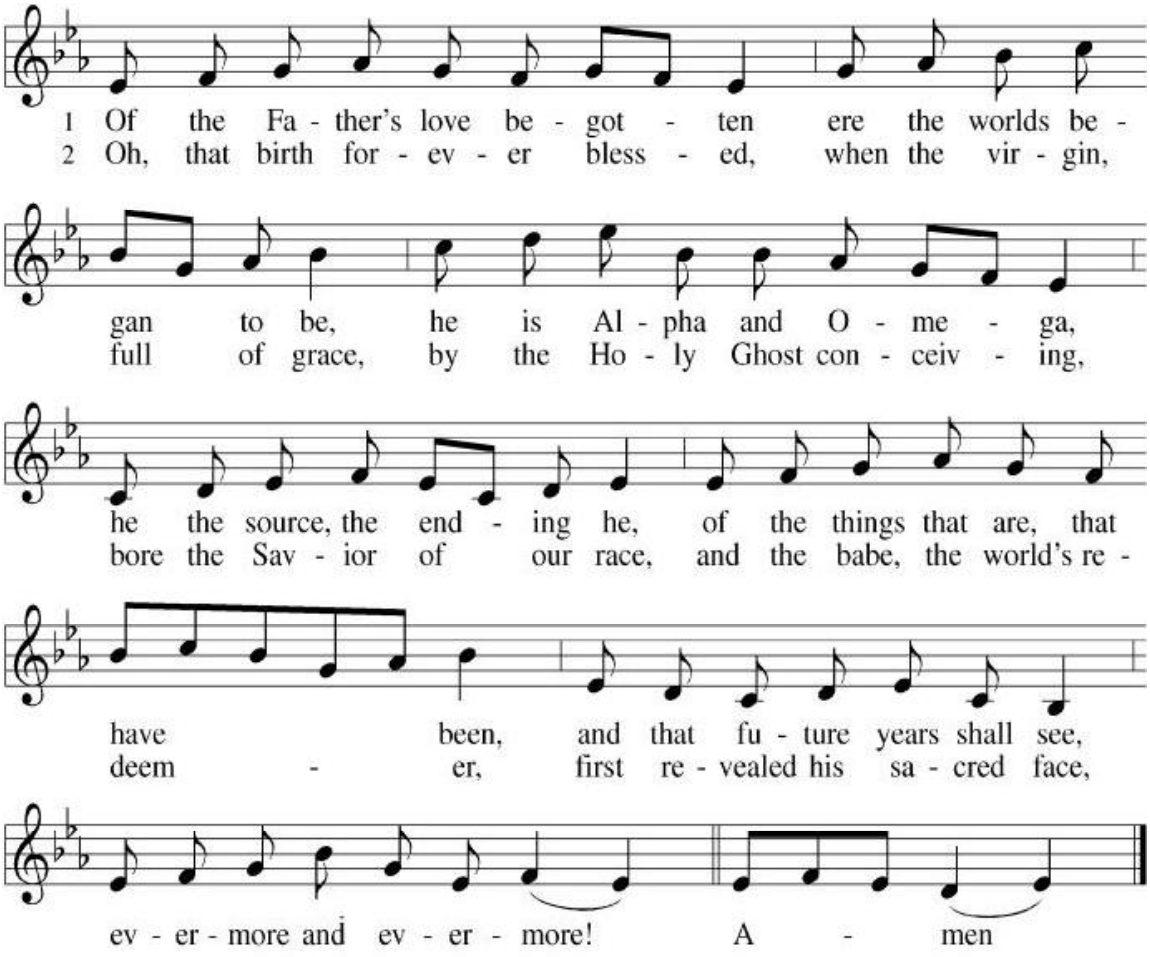
P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING…Hebrews 1:1-12.....p. 1862

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please rise.)*

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" verse 1 (SBH # 17)



Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, mode V, 13th cent.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL ...John 1:1-14……..……Pg. 1645

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *"Of the Father's ..." verse 2* ↑

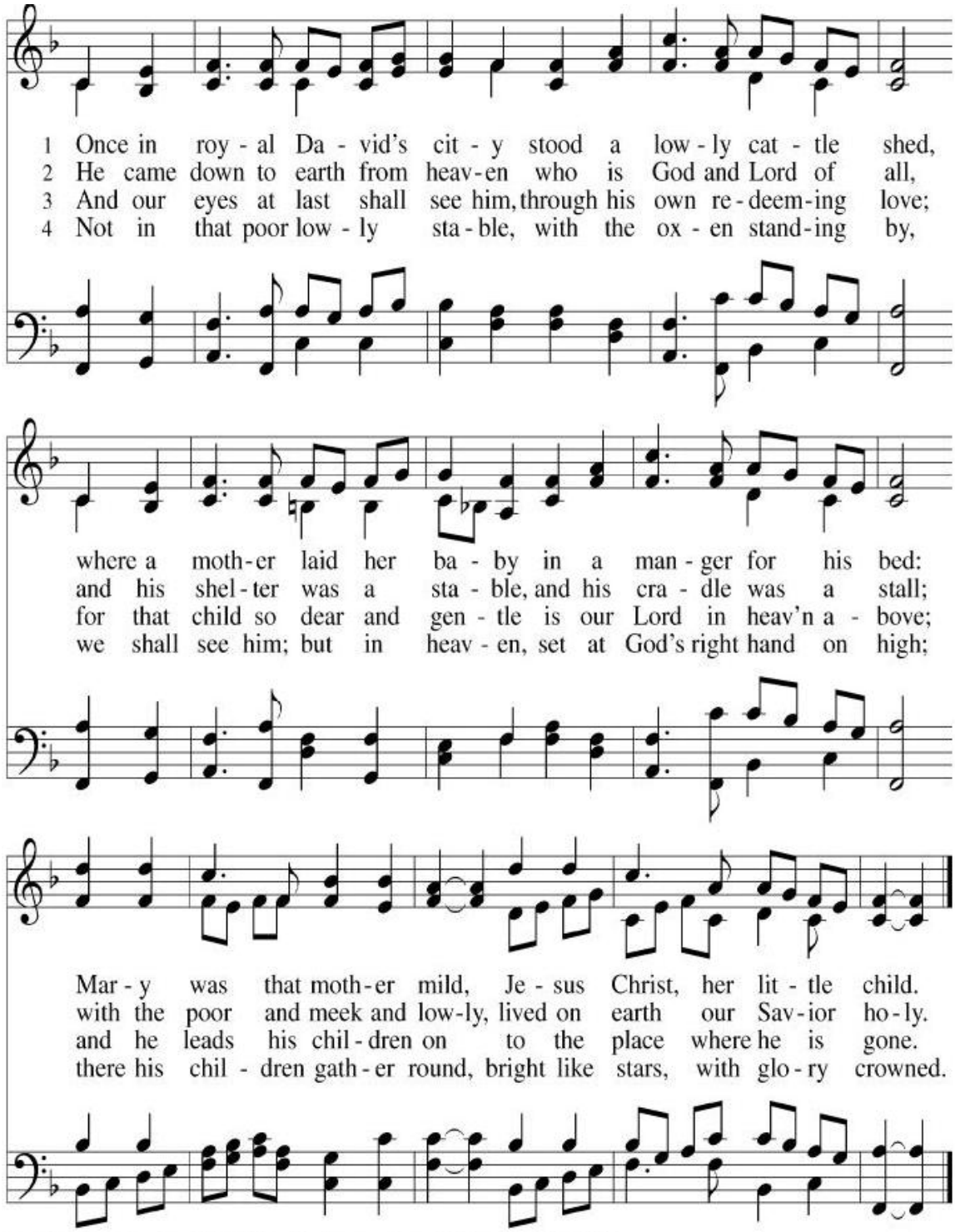
SERMON *(Please sit.)*

Hebrews Part 12: "God's Ultimate Revelation: Jesus Christ"

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

"Once in Royal David's City" (SBH # 41)



Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father, through Him all things were made. For us and our salvation He came down from heaven; He was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures, He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead: and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified, He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please rise.)*

P: The LORD be with you. **C: And also with you.**

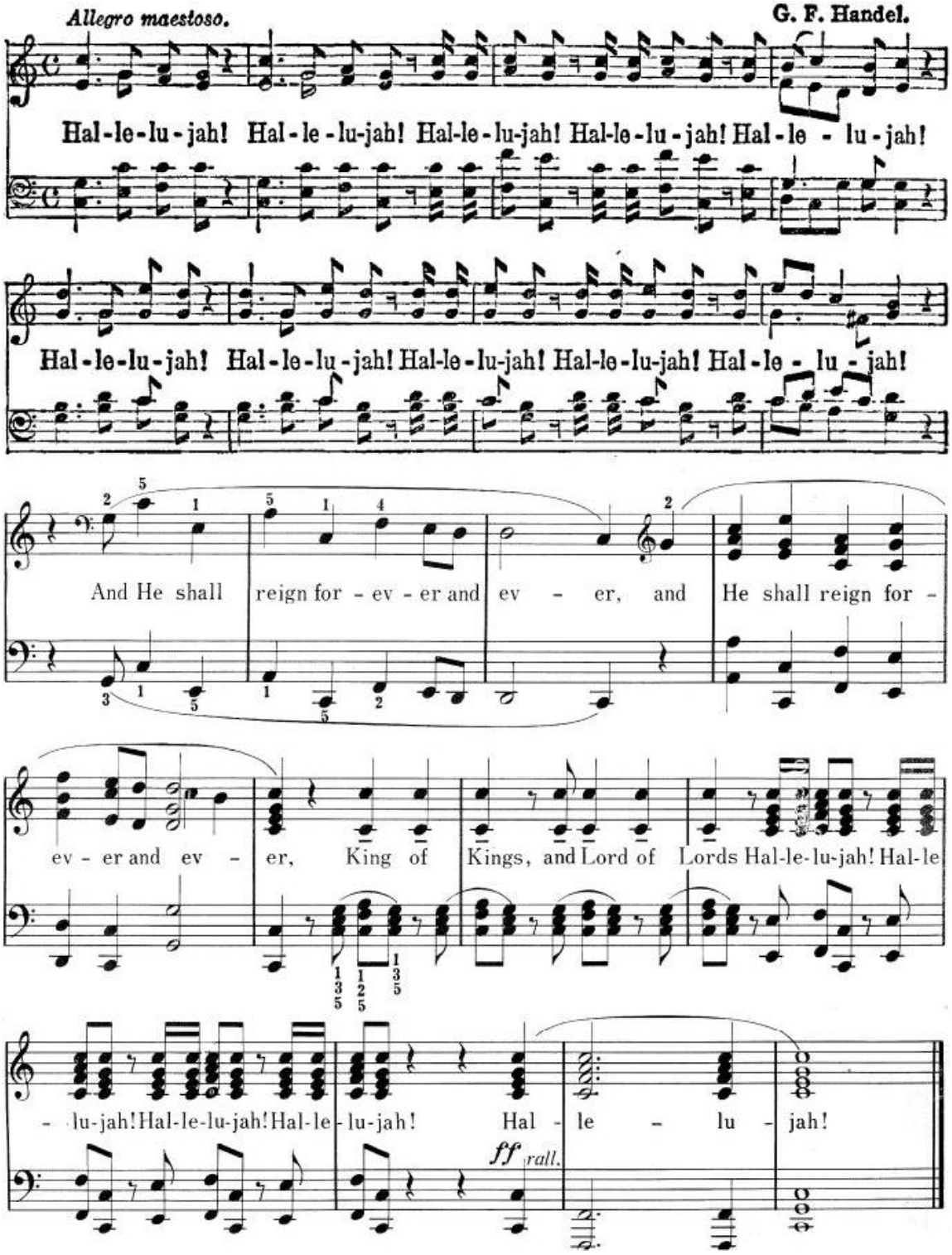
P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh You have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of Your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God Whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn: *"Hallelujah Chorus" (Shortened version)*



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to You for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, and into these gifts of bread and wine, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C: AMEN. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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, eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this in 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung) (please be seated after "Amen")*

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. AMEN.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(Please sit.)*

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

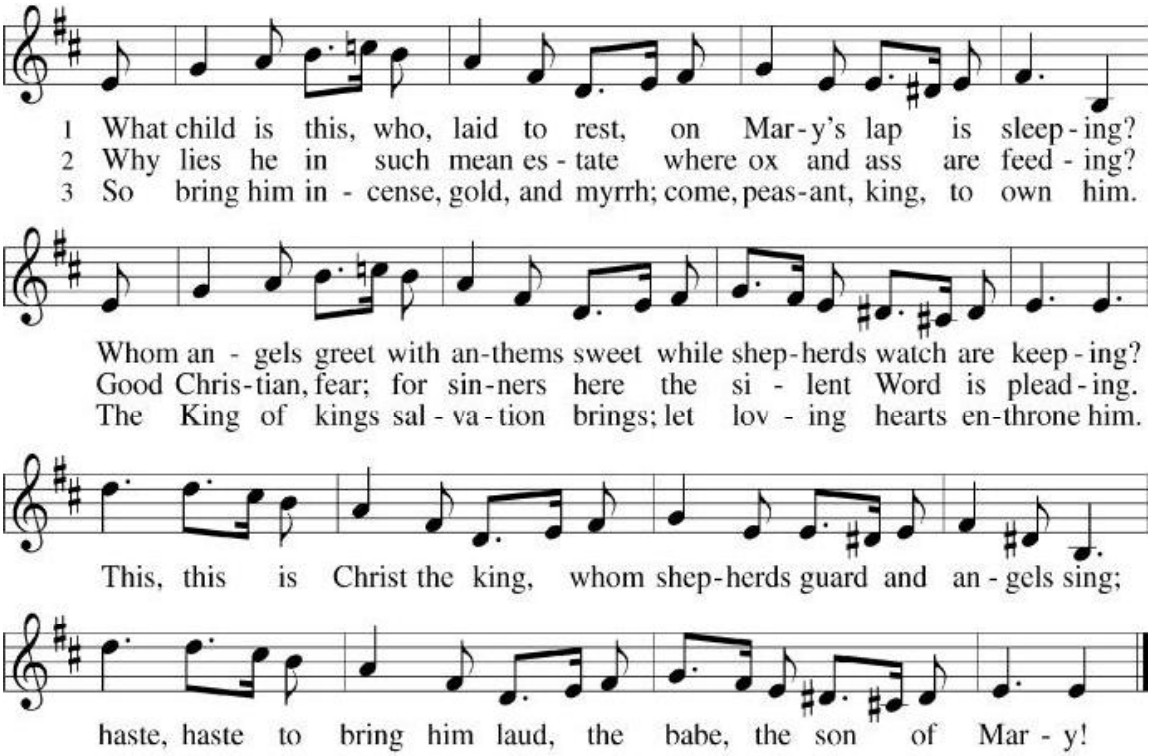
All who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a Communication Card and put it in the offering plate. As we gradually return to normal, people have the choice of receiving the elements "contact-free" (continuous flow on left side) or kneeling in "tables" and being handed the elements (right side). For a gluten-free rice wafer say "Rice." Grape juice is in pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.

ANTHEM *"A Hymn for Christmas"*

(Text: Margaret Clarkson; Tune: Tom Fettke & William J. Kirkpatrick)

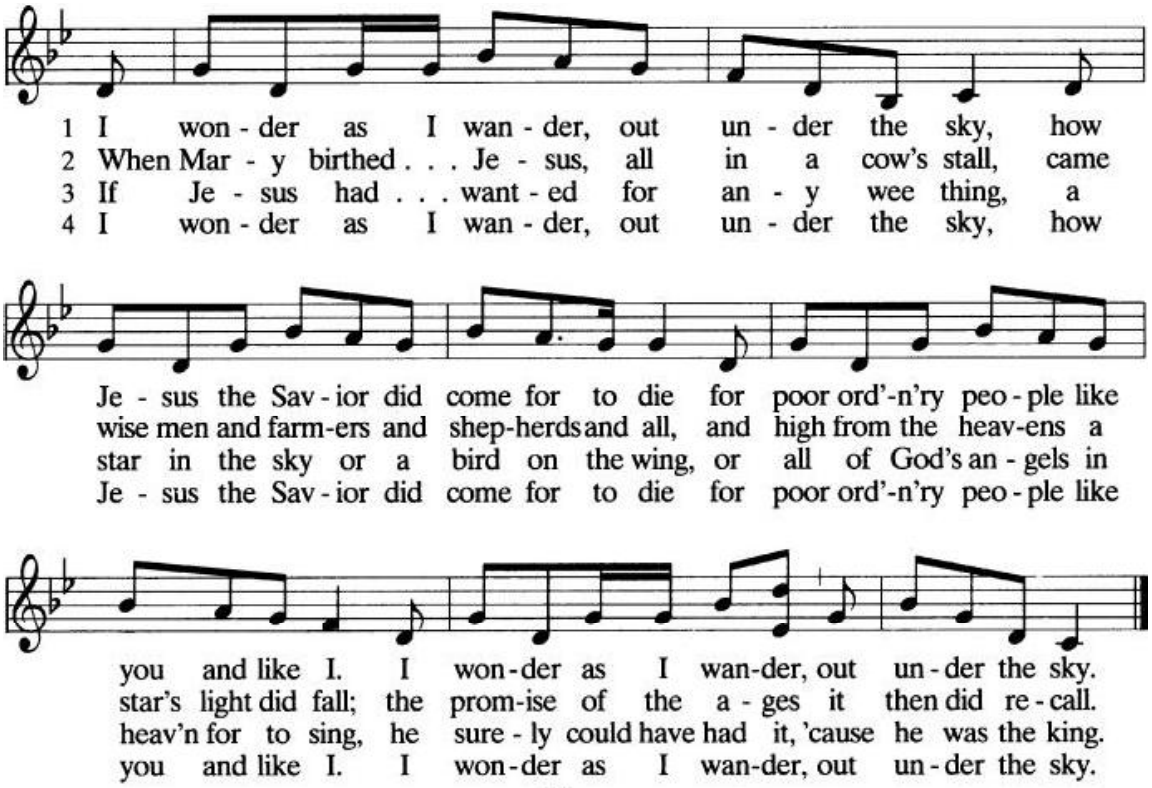
COMMUNION HYMNS *(sung while others are receiving.)*

1. "What Child Is This" (Maj # 140)



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

2. "I Wonder As I Wander" (Maj # 126 - John Jacob Niles)



POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Please rise.)*

P: Let us pray together: **God of love, thank You for feeding us with the bread of life and cup of salvation. Send us forth in the power of Your Spirit to tell the world about Jesus. AMEN.**

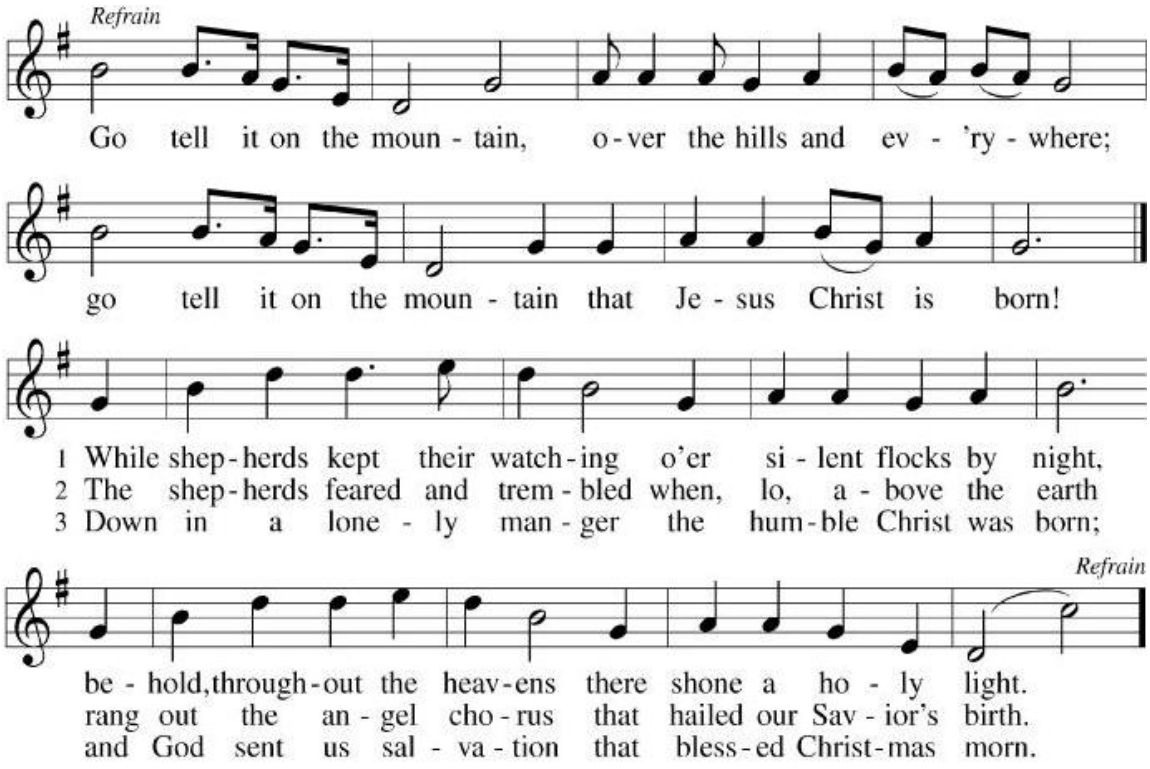
WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

PRESENTATION & BLESSING OF ADVENT BOXES

BLESSING

P: May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **C: AMEN.**

SENDING CAROL *"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (Maj # 139)*



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

PASSING THE PEACE

P: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

2021 Poinsettia Sponsors

Gary & Irene Graham
Sands/Szulborski Family
Kathy Ballek
Darlene & George Treisner
Jan & Lyn Stryker
Sharon Branigan
Carol & Ed Franceski
Brown Family

DECEMBER 25, 2021
CHRISTMAS DAY

SERVANTS OF THE LORD

ACOLYTE: Seth Miller
PASTOR: Rev. David L. Brown
ORGANIST: Nancy Cook
LITURGIST: Patty Stein
LECTOR: Ruthann Kistler
LIVE STREAM: Volunteer Needed
SOUND SYSTEM: Lyn Stryker
COMMUNION: Patty / Jonathan/ Josh
CHOIR: Karen Brown/Nancy Cook/Suzy Kramer/Jan Stryker
ALTAR GUILD: Jan/Sharon
COUNTERS: Jan/Karen/ Michele

A Very Blessed and Merry Christmas to All

CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE THE HOLY DAYS AT HOLY CROSS

CHRISTMAS 1 — Sunday, December 26, 2021
8:30 & 10:45AM — Praise Service
9:45AM — Happy Birthday Jesus Party

CHRISTMAS 2/EPIPHANY - Sunday, January 2, 2022
8:30 & 10:45AM — Lessons & Carols
9:45AM — Sunday School

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

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www.holycrossbethlehem.com

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