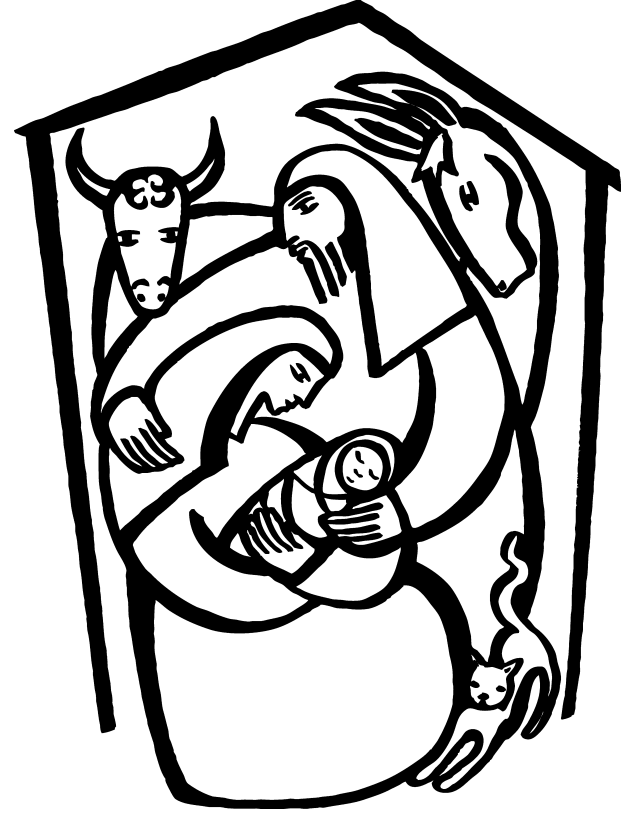


ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 State Street ♦ Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Welcome to St. Michael Church

In a world polluted by noise, we should be able to expect the privilege of silence for meditation and preparation as we enter the space set aside for our public worship. In that spirit, we ask you for silence and offer the devotional aids below for your use as you await the start of the service and during the prelude.

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

O Holy One, heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. Through the telling of the Christmas story, let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal in that same child, that we might join shepherd and all the heavenly host in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Dearest Jesus, through our worship this evening bless us so that as we greet people this season, saying, "Merry Christmas!" we may genuinely want for them the joy and hope which came to the world through your birth. May our hearts and lives be so filled with the majesty and mystery of your incarnation that joy and hope will overflow and generously spill into the days and weeks to come. Amen

WORSHIP NOTES

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Hearing Impaired or Hearing Enhancement- St. Michael offers to those with any type of hearing difficulty a small, remote personal speaker which provides the user an amplified, high quality audio of the entire service. We invite our guests who may have the need for such an accommodation to ask an usher for a personal speaker. (They are available upon entering the Nave.) We welcome any comments concerning St. Michael's efforts to accommodate persons with impairments or disabilities.

A large print version of this evening's liturgy is available in the narthex. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister
Director of Music
Assisting Minister
Cantor
Eucharistic Minister
Acolytes and Torchbearers
Thurifer
Lector
Greeters
Ushers
Altar Guild

The Reverend Larry Hawkins
Daniel W. Deitzel III
Kevin Hepler
Les Van Dam
Angela Tanczos
Marissa Archer and Isaac Hawkins
Karl Hawkins
Sarah Miller
Lloyd and Shirley Kramer
Clair Gunnet and Dick Miller
Ron Hartzell and Doug Kakuk



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Treva Attig Heathcote by Debra Cline
Parents by Bob Gerberich
Father-in-law, Jack Smith by Jackie Smith
Jeremiah Smith by Erin, BJ, Maizza; Kara, Kevin; Tom; Isaac,
Will, Karl and Caity
Sister, Vickie Slippey, by Jackie Smith
Barbara Thomas by The Humperdinck-L-Ettes
Alvin and Eva Umbenhauer by Ken Umbenhauer
Frank and Esther Wesley by John and Susan Wesley
Don Zutlas by Lloyd and Shirley Kramer



In honor of:

Our boys by Sue McDonald and Chris Persson
Wynn Grace and Libby Wagner by Susan Wagner
Grandchildren, Luke, Jordan and Anya, by Lloyd and Shirley Kramer
Gunnert and Warner families by Clair E. Gunnert Jr.
Nana and Pop-pop Hawkins by Amanda, Jeremy; Emily, Tristan;
Shanna, Wes, Noah; Isaac, Will, Karl and Caity
Grandma Ida by Sue McDonald and Chris Persson
Life partner, Doug Warner, by Clair E. Gunnert Jr.
Men and women serving in the military by Lennie Whitcomb
Vera Mink (Grammie) by Scarlett and Sonya Mink
Nan Smith by Erin, BJ, Maizza; Kara, Kevin; Tom; Isaac,
Will, Karl and Caity
Our St. Michael family by Sue McDonald and Chris Persson

FOR THIS HOLY HOUSE

Norma Ickes
Ken Umbenhauer

In memory of:

Richard H. Hays and Robert L. Bosley by Earl Truckenmiller
John H. Joseph by Marlene S. Joseph

In honor of:

John Joseph McGettigan by Marlene S. Joseph
Lauren Mary McGettigan by Marlene S. Joseph

Many thanks to all sponsors for the generosity of their gifts so that all may share in the beauty of their giving during this Christmas season.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD/CHRISTMAS EVE
A CELEBRATION OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

CHRISTMAS EVE RECITAL

see insert

+++GATHERING+++

The assembly stands when the ministers gather at the Nativity Window.

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed
in God's own image;
long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow
in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
a thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year
from the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world,
all earth being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,
willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ,
God made flesh.

GATHERING SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

GREETING

Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia!
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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

All gifts are given to the glory of Almighty God.

The Christmas Trees are sponsored in memory of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Libby, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Thaddeus Mesh by Ted and Carol Mesh; and by Kevin Sheets and Kevin Hancock.

The cedar roping is sponsored in memory of their parents, Loyd and Annie Price; and Samuel and Angeline Forlano by Dave and Cecilia Price.

The large wreaths are sponsored by Jim Cowden and Keith Edwards; Mary Ann Furedi and Rick May; and Mary and Lennie Whitcomb.

The white roses on the altar are sponsored in loving memory of Ken and Paul Miller by Keith Miller.

WREATHS

In memory of:

William and Mary Eberly by Floyd and Nancy
Irene Lutz by Susan Wagner
Aaron and Edith Miller by family
Fred Mink, (Pap Pap) by Vera, Scarlett and Sonya Mink
Lynn Mueller by Guy Kehler and Lindsay Mills
Lynn and Charlie Mueller, and Mid Roth by Gil and Sondra Parthemore
Aunt and Uncle, Jackie and Dave Swartz by Jackie Smith
Barbie Thomas by Gil and Sondra Parthemore
Grace and Samuel Wentz by Susan Wagner



In honor of:

Candy makers by Norma Ickes
Pastor Hawkins by Sue McDonald and Chris Persson
Patrick and Christine Quinn by Mary Whitcomb

POINSETTIAS

Vera Mink
Louise Palmer

In memory of:

Cyril and Linette Archer by the Archer family
Dan and Ruth Capp by Lloyd and Shirley Kramer
Michael P. Cline by Debra Cline
Earl and Kathryn Fackler by Lloyd and Shirley Kramer
Grandparents by Bob Gerberich
Sam, Betty and Karen Lynn Harm by John and Susan Wesley

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

The first verse will be sung in German, then all three verses in English.

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

+++SENDING+++

BLESSING

God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Candles are extinguished.

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on 'The First Nowell'

arr. Robert J. Hughes

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HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
 on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.\

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Once in Royal David's City* ELW 269
O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ELW 288 VS 3

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

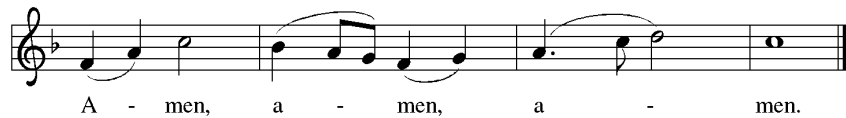
Let us pray.
 Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts
 of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the
 shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen,
 praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and
 Lord.
Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT—CANDLELIGHTING

JOHN 1:1-14

*The acolytes light a large candle from the altar candles which symbolize Christ, the
 Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks; then light the candle of each wor-
 shiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright
 when giving light to another.*

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



LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION

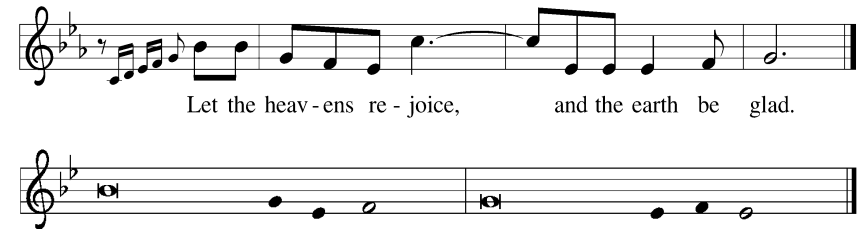
To receive Holy Communion come to the altar as directed by an usher. The pastor will place the Host (bread) in your open hand; an assisting minister will offer you the wine. Wine is offered either from the common cup, or in your own small glass which you can pick up from a tray at the front of the center aisle. Trays for the used glasses are at the front of the side aisles on a window sill.

If you are in doubt about any direction, please look to an usher for assistance.

PSALM

PSALM 96

The refrain is sung by the choir, repeated by the assembly. The psalm is sung antiphonally by the cantor and assembly, beginning with the cantor. The assembly sings the refrain where marked.

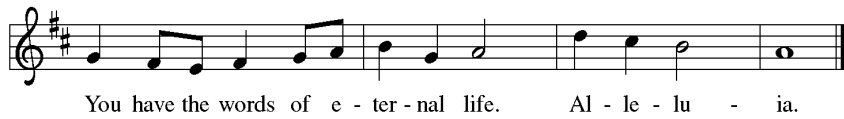


- ¹Sing to the LORD ¹a new song;
 sing to the LORD, ¹all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name ¹of the LORD;
 proclaim God's salvation from ¹day to day.**
- ³Declare God's glory a- ¹mong the nations
 and God's wonders a- ¹mong all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly ¹to be praised,
 more to be feared ¹than all gods. R**
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹are but idols;
 but you, O LORD, have ¹made the heavens.
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are ¹in your presence;
 power and splendor are in your ¹sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families ¹of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD hon- ¹or and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the ¹holy name;
 bring offerings and enter the courts ¹of the LORD. R**
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ty of holiness;
 tremble before the LORD, ¹all the earth.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The ¹LORD is king!
 The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
 will judge the peo- ¹ples with equity."**
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹earth be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
 let the field be joyful and all that ¹is therein.
- ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
 at your com- ¹ing, O LORD,
 for you come to ¹judge the earth.**
- ¹³You will judge the ¹world with righteousness
 and the peoples ¹with your truth. R

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-14 [15-20]

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.



In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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:



With this bread and cup
 we remember your Word dwelling among us,
 full of grace and truth.
 We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
 We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
 Come among us.
 Bless this meal.
 May your Word take flesh in us.
 Awaken your people.
 Fill us with your light.
 Bring the gift of peace on earth.

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

The First Noel

vs. 1

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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* ELW 270

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the 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 for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 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,*
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly shares the Lord's peace with those nearby.

+++MEAL+++

CHOIR ANTHEM

For Unto Us

Natalie Sleeth

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288

VS 1-2

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
 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.