

# The Church of the Ascension Minneapolis



**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**2025**

Cover art: Eastern Orthodox icon of the Nativity

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# Carols

## Carol

### JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy,
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonder, wonders of his love,

Text: based on Psalm 98:4-9; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Music: ANTIOCH; T. Hawkes' *Collection of Tunes*, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759,  
adapt. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872, alt.

## Carol

### LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As those of old have sung.  
It came, a flower bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
This Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it,  
The Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.
3. O Flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere;  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death now save us,  
And share our ev'ry load.

Text: Based on Isaiah 11:1; trad. German Carol, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt.

Music: ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN; melody fr. *Alte Cathlische Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1599;  
harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621, *Musae Sioniae*, 1609.

## Carol

### GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

1. Good Christian friends, 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 friends, 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 for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, 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!

Text: Latin and German, 14<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO; J. Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1535; arr. adapt. fr. John Stainer, 1840-1901.

## Choir Carol

### BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

1. *Beautiful Savior, King of Creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.*
2. *Fair are the meadows,  
Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flowers of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;  
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*
3. *Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be thine!*

Text: Psalm 45:3; *Schönster Herr Jesu*, in *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; tr. by Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904.  
Music: ST. ELIZABETH, trad. Silesian Melody; Hoffman and Richter's *Schlesische Volkslieder*, Leipzig, 1842

## Choir Carol

### SLEEP, HOLY BABE

1. *Sleep, Holy Babe,  
Upon Thy Mother's breast!  
Great Lord of earth and sea and sky,  
How sweet it is to see Thee lie  
In such a place of rest!*
2. *Sleep, Holy Babe,  
Thine Angels watch around;  
All bending low with folded wings  
Before the Incarnate King of Kings  
In reverent awe profound!*

Text: Tr. Rev. E. Caswall  
Music: Traditional Melody, edited and arr. by N.A.M.  
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## Choir Carol

MARY, DID YOU KNOW

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
will one day walk on water?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
will save our sons and daughters?*

*Did you know that your baby Boy  
has come to make you new?*

*This Child that you delivered,  
will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
will give sight to a blind man?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
will calm the storm with His hand?*

*Did you know that your baby Boy  
has walked where angels trod?*

*When you kiss your little Baby,*

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
will one day walk on water?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
will save our sons and daughters?*

*Did you know that your baby Boy  
has come to make you new?*

*This Child that you delivered,  
will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
will give sight to a blind man?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
will calm the storm with His hand?*

*Did you know that your baby Boy  
has walked where angels trod?*

*When you kiss your little Baby,  
you've kissed the face of God.*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear and  
the dead will live again.*

*The lame will leap, the dumb will speak  
the praises of the Lamb.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
is Lord of all creation?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby Boy  
will one day rule the nations?*

*Did you know that your baby Boy  
is heaven's perfect Lamb?*

*This sleeping Child you're holding  
is the great, I AM!*

Words and Music: Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

## Carol

### GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone a stray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.
2. From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.
3. "Fear not, then," said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior  
Of Virgin pure and bright,  
To free all those who trust in him  
From Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.
4. Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and charity  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
Is filled with heav'nly grace.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Text: trad. English Carol, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.

Music: GOD REST YOU MERRY; trad. English Carol; melody fr. *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1836;  
arr. by John Stainer, 1840-1901, in *Bramley and Stainer's Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871, alt.



## Carol

### SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

1. Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and child!  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born."
3. Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Joseph Morh, 1792-1849; tr. by John F. Young, 1820-1885.  
Music: STILLE NACHT; Franz X. Gruber, 1878-1863.

*With respect for the celebration of the Mass,  
please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.*

## Introductory Rites

### Carol

#### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, \_\_\_  
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, \_\_\_  
4. Ad - é - ste fi - dé - les, lae - ti tri - um - phán - tes, Ve -

come ye, O come \_\_\_ ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n \_\_\_ a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee \_\_\_ be all glo - ry giv'n;  
ní - te, ve - ní - te in Béth - le - hem.

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing.  
Na - tum vi - dé - te Re - gem an - ge - ló - rum.

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,  
Ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus, ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus,

O come, let us a - dore him, \_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_ the Lord!  
ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus \_\_\_ Dó - - - mi - num.

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt.  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES; attr. John F. Wade

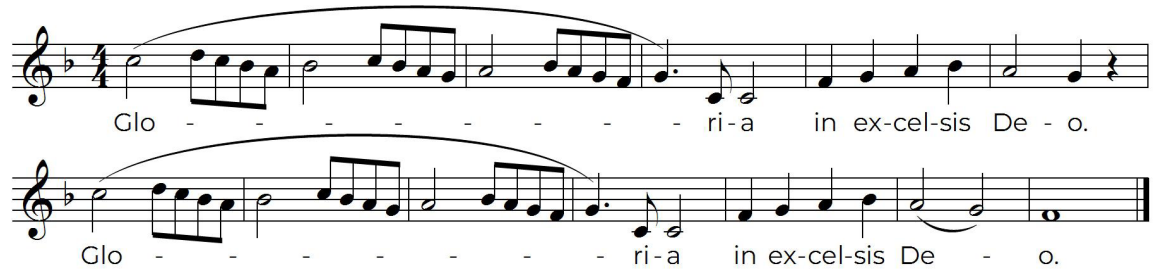
## Greeting

## Penitential Rite

## Gloria

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.

### Antiphon



We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

### Antiphon

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

### Antiphon

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Antiphon

GLORIA  
French carol, setting by Daniel W. Laginya  
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## Collect Prayer

O God,  
    who have made this most sacred night  
radiant with the splendor  
    of the true light,  
grant, we pray, that we, who have known  
    the mysteries of his light on earth,  
may also delight in his gladness  
    in heaven.

Who lives and reigns with you  
    in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



# Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

ISAIAH 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom  
a light has shone.  
You have brought them abundant joy  
and great rejoicing,  
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,  
as people make merry when dividing spoils.  
For the yoke that burdened them,  
the pole on their shoulder,  
and the rod of their taskmaster  
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.  
For every boot that tramped in battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
will be burned as fuel for flames.  
For a child is born to us, a son is given us;  
upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.  
His dominion is vast  
and forever peaceful,  
from David's throne, and over his kingdom,  
which he confirms and sustains  
by judgment and justice,  
both now and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

PSALM 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13



Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all you lands.  
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

Announce his salvation, day after day.  
Tell his glory among the nations;  
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;  
let the sea and what fills it resound;  
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;  
for he comes to rule the earth.

He shall rule the world with justice  
and the peoples with his constancy.

Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13.

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## Second Reading

TITUS 2:11-14

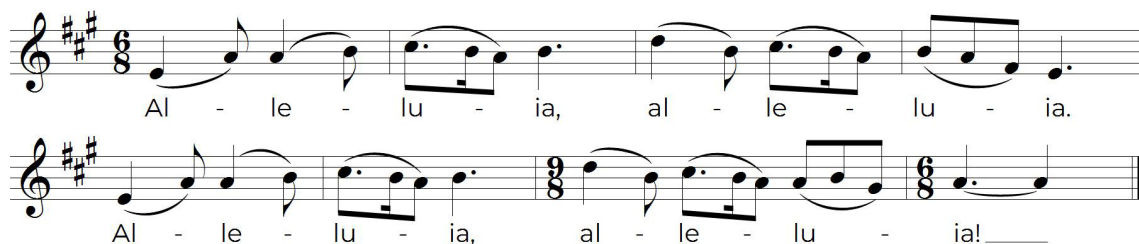
Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

CELTIC ALLELUIA



*I proclaim to you good news of great joy:  
today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.*

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## Gospel

LUKE 2:1-14

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily



## Profession of Faith

### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Bow

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;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there 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 life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayer of the Faithful

# Liturgy of the Eucharist

## Presentation of the Gifts and Preparation of the Altar

### Choir Carol

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

1. *Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his be a cattle stall.  
Oxen lowing, little knowing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging angels singing,  
nowells ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!*
2. *Flocks were sleeping vigil keeping  
till the morning new,  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe is born for you.  
Christ the babe is born for you.*
3. *As we journey to the stable  
like the wisemen long ago,  
we are hoping to discover  
what these pilgrims came to know.  
All are welcome at this manger,  
king and shepherd, friend and stranger.  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.*
4. *Wake our spirits from their slumber;  
send the darkness on its way.  
Fill our hearts with joy and wonder  
on this blessed Christmas day.  
Songs of angels all around us;  
grace and blessing now surround us.  
Christ be with us as we go.  
Christ be with us as we go.*

Text: Verses 1, 2 translated by Edith M. Reed; Verses 3, 4 by Dan Schutte

Music: W ZLOBIE LIEZY; arr. Dan Schutte

Musical arrangement and text of verses 3 and 4 © 2004, Daniel L. Schutte.

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## Prayer over the Offerings

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

May the oblation of this day's feast  
be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,  
that through this most holy exchange  
we may be found

in the likeness of Christ,  
in whom our nature is united to you.

Who lives and reigns  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right and just.**

## Preface Acclamation

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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. Ho-san-na in the high - - est.

The musical score for the Preface Acclamation is written on four staves in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the acclamation, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the third line. The melody is written in a single voice part.

## Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro -  
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

The musical score for the Memorial Acclamation is written on two staves in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the acclamation, and the second staff contains the second line. The melody is written in a single voice part.

## Great Amen

A - men, a - men, a - - - - men.  
A - men, a - men, a - - - - men.

The musical score for the Great Amen is written on two staves in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the amen, and the second staff contains the second line. The melody is written in a single voice part.

*Mass of Creation*

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## The Lord's Prayer

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;  
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Sign of Peace

## Lamb of God



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

## Communion

### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul.

Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as being already there, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

—Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)

## Choir Carol

GESÙ BAMBINO

Jesu, Redemptor omnium,  
Quem lucis ante originem,  
Parem paternæ gloriæ,  
Pater supremus edidit.

Tu lumen, et splendor  
Patris, Tu spes perennis omnium:  
Intende quas fundunt preces  
Tui per orbem servuli.

*Venite adoremus Dominum.*

Memento, rerum Conditor,  
Nostri quod olim corporis,  
Sacrata ab alvo Virginis  
Nascendo, formam sumpseris.

Testatur hoc præsens dies,  
Currrens per anni circulum,  
Quod solus e sinu Patris  
Mundi salus adveneris.

*Venite adoremus Dominum.*

*Jesus, Redeemer of the world,  
Who, ere created light began,  
Didst from the sovereign Father spring,  
His power and glory equalling ;*

*Thou brightness of thy Father's rays,  
The hope and end of all our ways,  
With gracious ear the prayers attend  
Which round the world to thee ascend.*

*O come, let us adore.*

*Remember, Lord, that heretofore,  
When thee thy Virgin-mother bore,  
Thou from her womb did breathe our air,  
And human nature for us wear.*

*To thee, this present solemn day,  
We yearly adorations pay ;  
The world's Redeemer thee we own,  
Descending from thy Father's throne.*

*O come, let us adore.*

Words: 6th Century, by Urban VII in 1629 for the Tridentine Rite (Council of Trent);  
Translation: Orby Shipley, Annus Sanctus: Hymns of the Church for the Ecclesiastical Year. Vol. 1.  
(London and New York: Burns and Oates, 1884)  
Music: Pietro A. Yon

## Choir Carol

### O HOLY NIGHT

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious  
morn;  
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel  
voices! O night divine, O night when  
Christ was born! O night divine!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another,  
His law is love, and His gospel is peace;  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our  
brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus  
raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name;  
Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise His name  
forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

Words and music: Adolphe Adam



## Prayer after Communion

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,  
that we, who are gladdened  
by participation  
in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity,  
may through an honorable way of life  
become worthy of union with him.  
Who lives and reigns  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**



# Concluding Rites

## Blessing

## Dismissal

## Carol

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us se - cond birth.

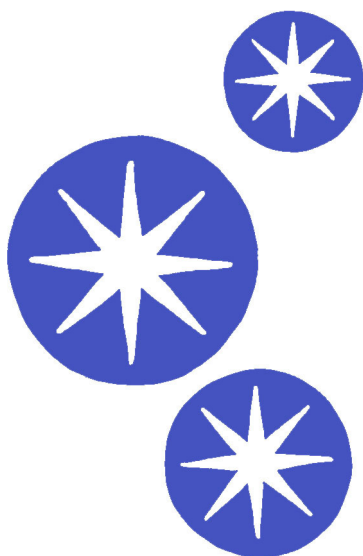


Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN; Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; adapt. and arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831-1915.





*life in abundance.*  
**Ascension**  
*Vida en abundancia*

May you and your loved ones know the joy and peace of  
Jesus Christ our Savior during this Christmas Season and the coming year.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Church of the Ascension.

We are blessed by your presence this day  
and invite you to join us during the coming year.