

Christmas Two  
January 2, 2021

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Making Christ Known to all Through Grace*

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln NE 68502 + 402-474-1505 + [www.egrace.org](http://www.egrace.org)

Network: GLC-Balcony

Password: AlphaOmega

### WELCOME to worship

Grace Lutheran Church, a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been at the heart of the faith community in Lincoln since 1889.

- We follow our mission: "Making Christ known to all through Grace."
- We celebrate our purpose: "That by God's grace we have been gathered to worship, called to witness, and sent to serve."
- We seek our vision: "To become a church with a passion for fostering a welcoming community that strives for peace and a sense of belonging."

Thank you for worshipping with us today and join our community at any time!

### WORSHIP notes

Remember your response is marked in **BOLD** font.

**Hearing enhancement devices** are available in the entry space. Ask an usher to assist you.

**Restrooms** are located next to our chapel on the other side of the courtyard.

**Masks** are required for everyone during worship.

### INTRODUCTION to worship

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

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### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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### WELCOME

**PRELUDE** The First Noel - Traditional English carol, arr. Lindy Kerby

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*STAND*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

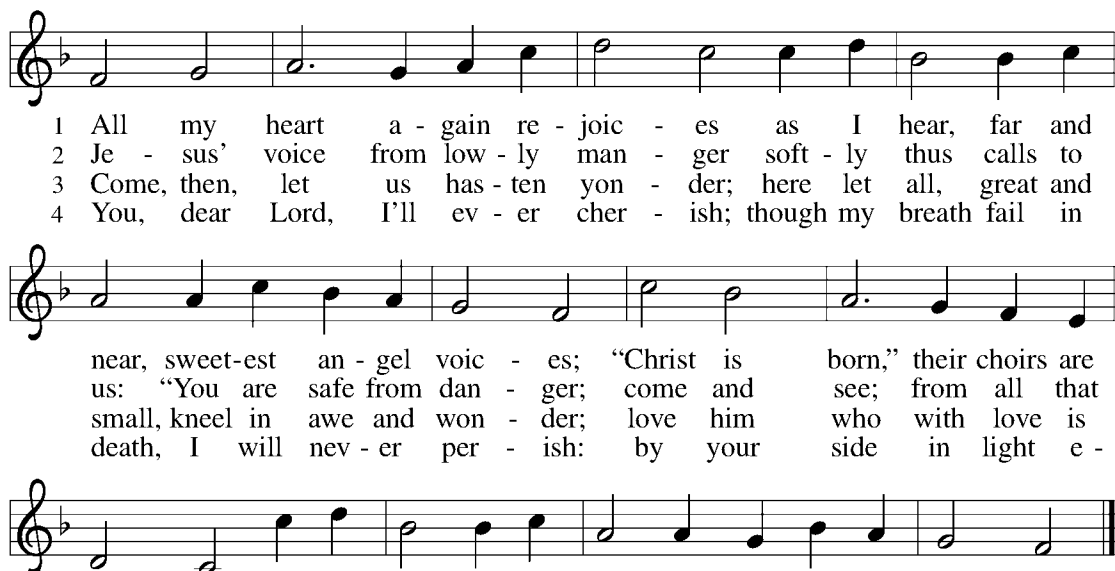
Holy God,

**we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✠ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN 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 -

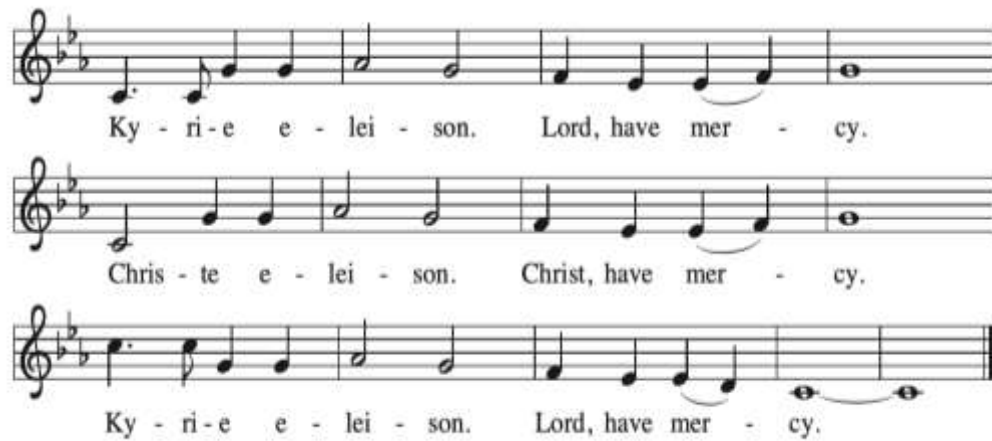
sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."  
yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.  
ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

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

### 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.**

**KYRIE** (next page)



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

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*SIT*

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:10-14

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

A reading from Jeremiah:

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-15



Wor - ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa-lem; praise your God, O Zi - on.

Psalm 147:12  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, <sup>1</sup>O Jerusalem;  
praise your <sup>1</sup>God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars <sup>1</sup>of your gates  
and has blessed your chil- <sup>1</sup>dren within you.**  
<sup>14</sup>God has established peace <sup>1</sup>on your borders  
and satisfies you with the <sup>1</sup>finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command <sup>1</sup>to the earth,  
a word that runs <sup>1</sup>very swiftly. R**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 13-14

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

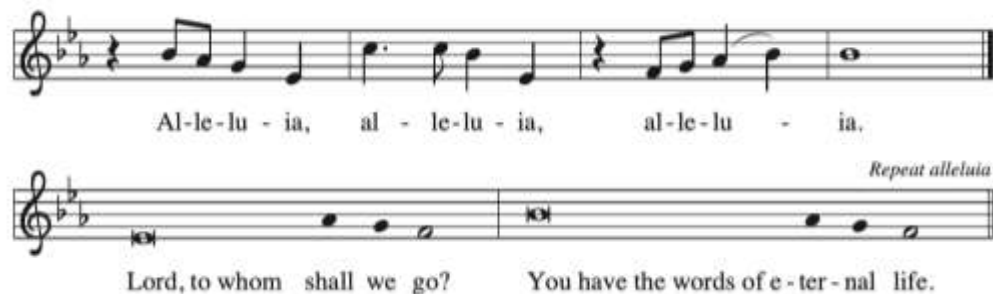
A reading from Ephesians:

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

STAND

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Gospel: John 1: 1-9, 10-18

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

<sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

SIT

## SERMON

STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 299

## Cold December Flies Away



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.  
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.  
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders  
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.  
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the  
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en  
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the  
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est  
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.  
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.  
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953  
Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalanian carol  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## APOSTLE'S 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 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 to the living,  
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**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need. Especially those we name before you now.... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You journey with us through change. Guide making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

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## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

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*SIT*

**MUSIC OFFERING** "Panis Angelicus" - Cesar Franck

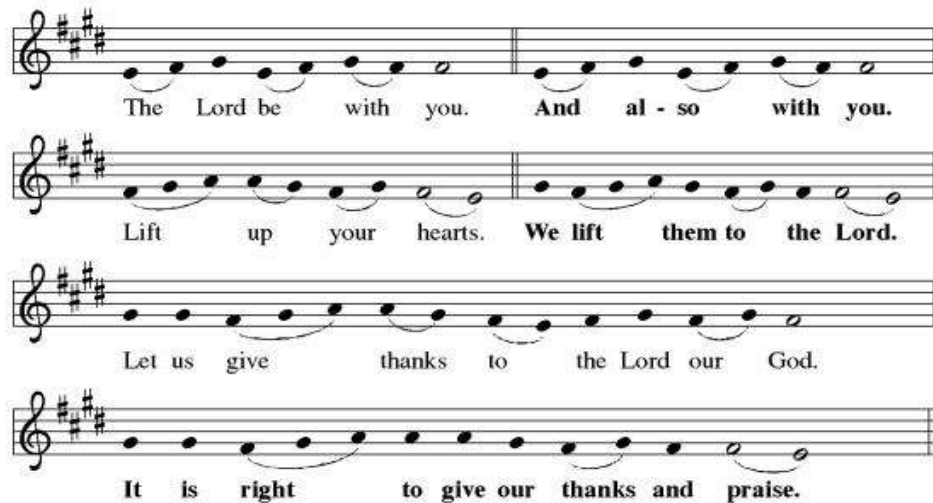


## STAND

### OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,  
prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation,  
in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### DIALOG



### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Amen.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

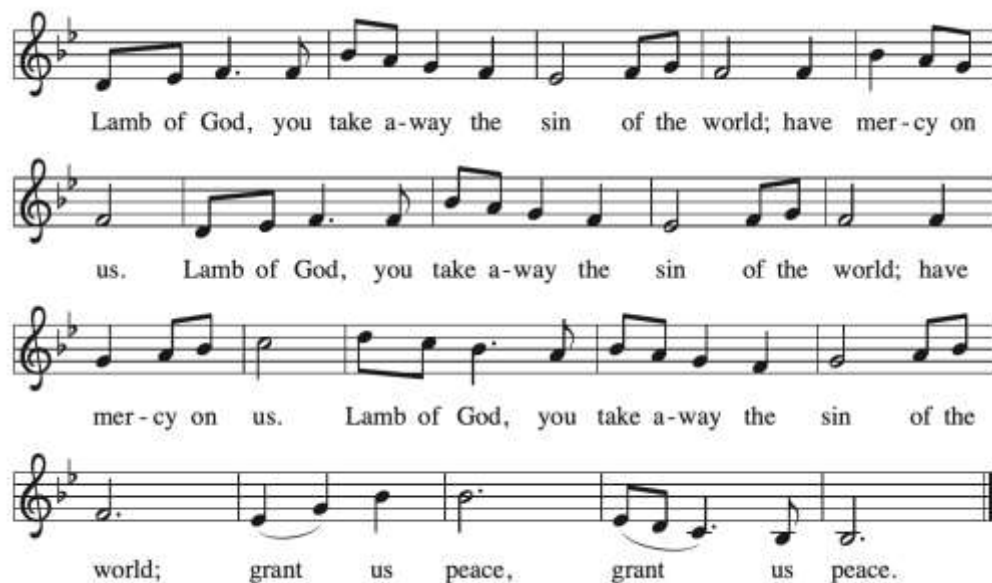
### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

## AGNUS DEI



## COMMUNION

*All are welcome. Come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the wafer (Body of Christ). Gluten free is available upon request. Move to the next station to receive the cup (Blood of Christ). Grape juice is available upon request. Return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Please dispose your used cup into the basket at the head of the side aisle.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS ELW 286 and 268

## 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



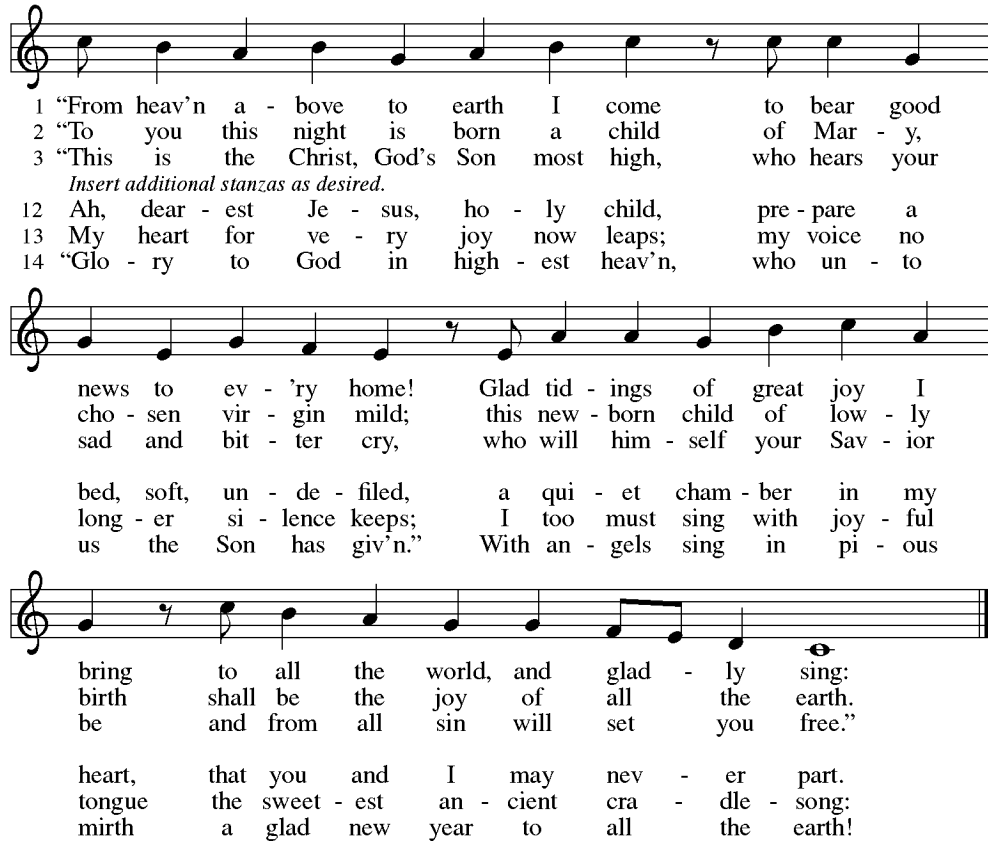
come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry  
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,  
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to  
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



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

## From Heaven Above



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good  
2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,  
3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your  
*Insert additional stanzas as desired.*  
12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a  
13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no  
14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to

news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly  
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior

bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my  
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful  
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous

bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:  
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.  
be and from all sin will set you free."

heart, that you and I may nev - er part.  
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:  
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

**STAND**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

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### SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

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**SENDING HYMN ELW 300**

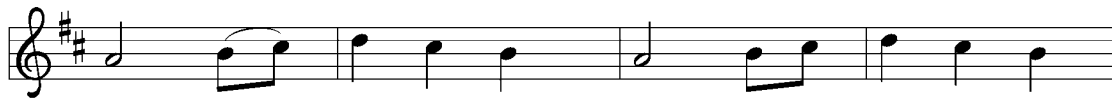
# The First Noel



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



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.

Text: English traditional  
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

## BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing - Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Bonnie Heidenreich

## **WORSHIP SERVANTS:**

Worship Leader:	Eric Lesher
Organist/Pianist:	Anne Melang-Thoren and Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson
Reader:	Denny Berens
Soloist:	Peter Schnake
Communion Assistants:	Denny and Charlyne Berens
Bread:	Chris and Wendy Apple
Altar Guild:	Robert Stimbert
Ushers:	Lynette and Mike Lewis, John and Beth Johnson

## **WORSHIP RESTRICTIONS**

The following temporary changes will occur for the foreseeable future:

- As always, if you are ill or at risk, please stay at home and watch the service online.
- Masks are required for everyone during worship.
- We will enter the building through the Atrium doors. These doors will be locked at ten minutes past the hour. All other doors will be locked.
- There will hand sanitizers at the doorways. If you wish you can sanitize your hands prior to entering the worship space.
- There will be no offering. There will be an offering basket located at the entrance door to the sanctuary.
- There will be no sharing of the peace.
- There will be no acolyte or assisting minister.
- There will be no nursery available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee Hour** in the gym following worship.

**Green attendance cards** can be filled out and returned to the Offering basket in the front of the church or the Welcome Table basket in the back of the church.

### **Afghan Refugees**

If you would like more information on how to help refugees coming into our area then please visit the website of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska or make a check out to Grace Lutheran and note it as “Lutheran Family Services Refugee Support”.

**The Lutheran** magazine and **Daily Devotionals** are available in the narthex after worship or in the atrium during the week.

**Flower chart** is available in the atrium. You can sign up for flowers there and leave through the east main entrance.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### **January 3:**

Office Closed	
Lincoln Literacy	9:15 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Scouts BSA	7:00 pm

### **January 4:**

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm
Committee Meetings	7:00 pm

### **January 5:**

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 am
Bell Choir A practice	6:00 pm
Bell Choir B practice	7:00 pm

### **January 8:**

Danish Sisterhood	1:00 pm
Worship	5:30 pm

### **January 9:**

Worship	9:00 am
Table Fellowship	10:00 am
Adult Class	10:30 am



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli.  
If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."