

# New Jerusalem Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Christmas  
December 31st, 2023  
Worship Service  
ELW Setting 4

## *Announcements for December 31, 2023*

### **PRAYERS FOR OUR NJLC COMMUNITY**

*\*\*new names added this week (NJLC connection)*

Prayer Requests: Wayne Dunkley (NJLC member); Mack Keister (NJLC member); Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock (Judy Fox); \*\*Evelyn Bowman (NJLC member); \*\*Anna Adler (Leah Onderdonk); \*\*Cecelia Cole (NJLC member)

### **BIG THANKS TO THE NJLC CHILDREN**

A huge THANK YOU to the children of NJLC for bringing us such a splendid Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve Sunday.

### **<< NO PRAYGROUND THIS SUNDAY >>**

Prayground will resume on January 7th, and continue every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month.

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO MUSICIANS**

Thank you to all of our musicians and singers for bringing us uplifting musical offerings for Advent and Christmas:

Minister of Music and organist: Mark A. Fletcher

Quintet: Sarah Stillman, Nancy Spannaus, Edward Spannaus, Jim Freeman, Rob Legard

Flute: Curtis Adams

Pianist: Don Burgess

Violinists: Harrison Loeffler, Elena Doyle

### **THE 2024 FLOWER SIGNUP CHART IS HERE!**

Thanks for all the faithful servants who provided altar flowers during 2023. The sign-up chart for the New Year is posted downstairs in the hall next to the fellowship hall.

### **NJLC INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

Winter is officially here, and that can mean dangerous roads. In general, if the schools are closed due to inclement weather then the church is also closed. Similarly if evening activities at schools are canceled then evening activities at the church are also canceled. Please think safety first, though, and if the driving conditions where you live seem dangerous then please do not venture out simply because the schools are not closed. We will miss you, but want you to be safe this winter.



## New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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Pastor Phillip Carl

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**OUR MISSION:** *Responding to God's grace, we are a welcoming congregation growing in Christian faith through worship, learning, serving, and fellowship.*

**OUR VISION:** *NJLC is a compassionate community of disciples that values everyone & expresses faith by connecting with God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, & all creation.*

### WELCOME TO NEW JERUSALEM

*A few items of note to help you in your time here today:*

**MASKS** — Masks are optional for worship and events at New Jerusalem, though we encourage mask wearing for anyone who chooses to do so.

**NEWCOMERS** — Visitors are always welcome and we invite you to sign our guestbook located in the entryway or fill out a pew card from the pew rack in front of you.

**COMMUNION** — Welcome to the table of Christ where we believe Christ is fully present to us in, with, and under these elements of bread and wine. You are invited to participate whether a member here or come to us from any other denominational tradition. Those not ready to receive Christ in body and blood, may still come forward to receive Christ in blessing. Follow the directions of the ushers who will dismiss each pew. As you come to the top of the center aisle, the pastor will place a wafer in your hands and invite you to step to the side to take an individual cup of wine (first tray) or grape juice (second). Please receive and then discard cups in the receptacle along the altar rail. If you cannot come forward, communion can be brought to you after all have communed at the front.

**CHILDREN** — We seek to be a family-friendly congregation who enjoys having children among us, including the littler ones. We have a Cherub's Corner in the fellowship hall downstairs with age appropriate toys, books, etc. and the worship service can be heard over the speakers. Should you have the need/desire to utilize our staffed Sunday Morning Nursery, it is located in the end room of the education building.

**HANDICAP ACCESSABILITY** — Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs at the back of our Fellowship Hall or across in our Education Building. Someone is available to run the lift should you need to get up and down between levels.

We hope that in your time among us, you will encounter the love of God in Spirit!



The flowers on the altar today are given by the Church Council to the glory of God and in praise and thankfulness for the birth of the Baby Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

*To provide altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday, sign-up on the 2024 Flower Chart located in the church hallway or contact the church office.*

## Introduction

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

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## GATHERING

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**READER FOR TODAY**

Sarah Stillman

**PRELUDE**

Mark A. Fletcher

*We prepare our hearts and minds for worship during the prelude.*

## WELCOME

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

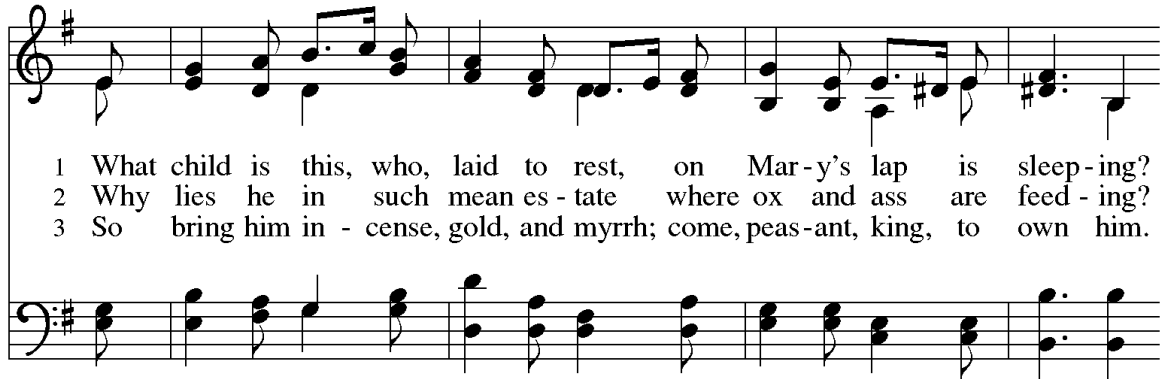
"What Child is This"  
(see music on next page)

ELW 296

## 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.**

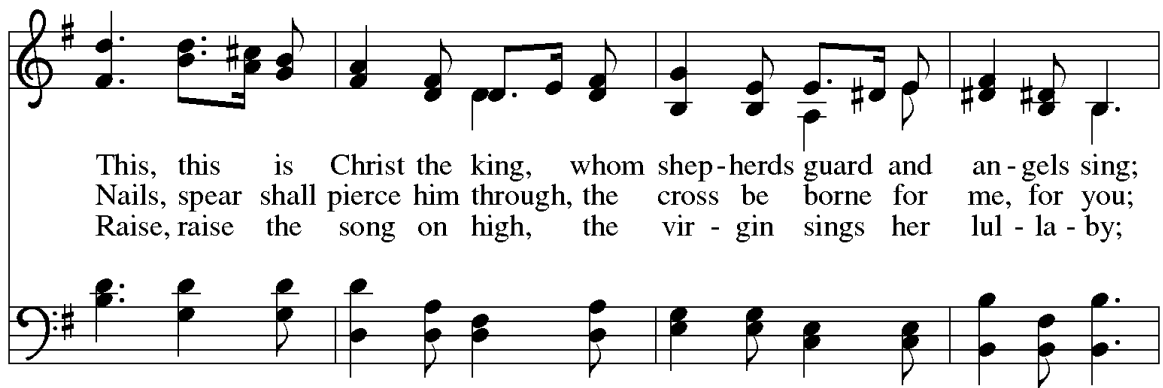
# What Child Is This



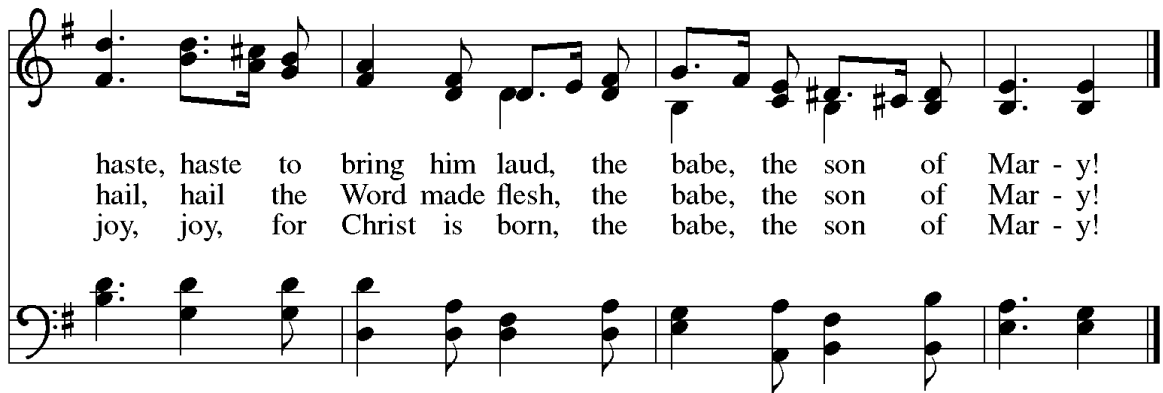
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



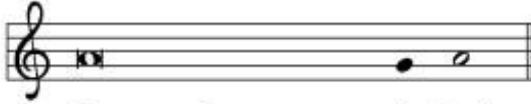
This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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

# Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



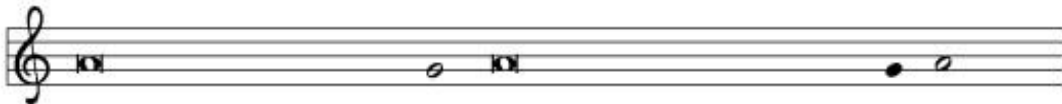
**☪** Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **☪** A - men.

# Canticle of Praise

Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray...

**People:** Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

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## THE WORD

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### FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Reader: The first reading for today is recorded in the book of Isaiah...

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. <sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Reader: The second reading for today is recorded in the book of Galatians ...

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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## GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:22-40

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

**People:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with

fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Phil Carl

**Sermon**

Pastor Phil Carl

Please stand as you are able.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“In His Temple Now Behold Him”  
(see music on next page)

ELW 417

# In His Temple Now Behold Him

1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -  
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -  
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,  
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less

pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,  
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,  
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,  
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en

God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,  
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,  
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther

his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!  
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.  
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825-1903, alt.  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**People: 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 into heaven,  
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

Reader: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves. You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Reader; Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness (*especially Wayne Dunkley, Mack Keister, Dean Fox, Peggy Glascock, Evelyn Bowman, Anna Adler, and Cecelia Cole*). We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Reader: As we strive to call a new pastor for this congregation, send your Spirit to guide our decisions and those of all others in that process, so the outcome reflects your will for our future. God of grace,

**People: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Reader: We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**People: Amen.**

## GREETING & PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

*We invite you to turn and share a sign of peace with your neighbors.*

Please be seated.

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## MEAL

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### OFFERTORY

Mark A. Fletcher

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

*Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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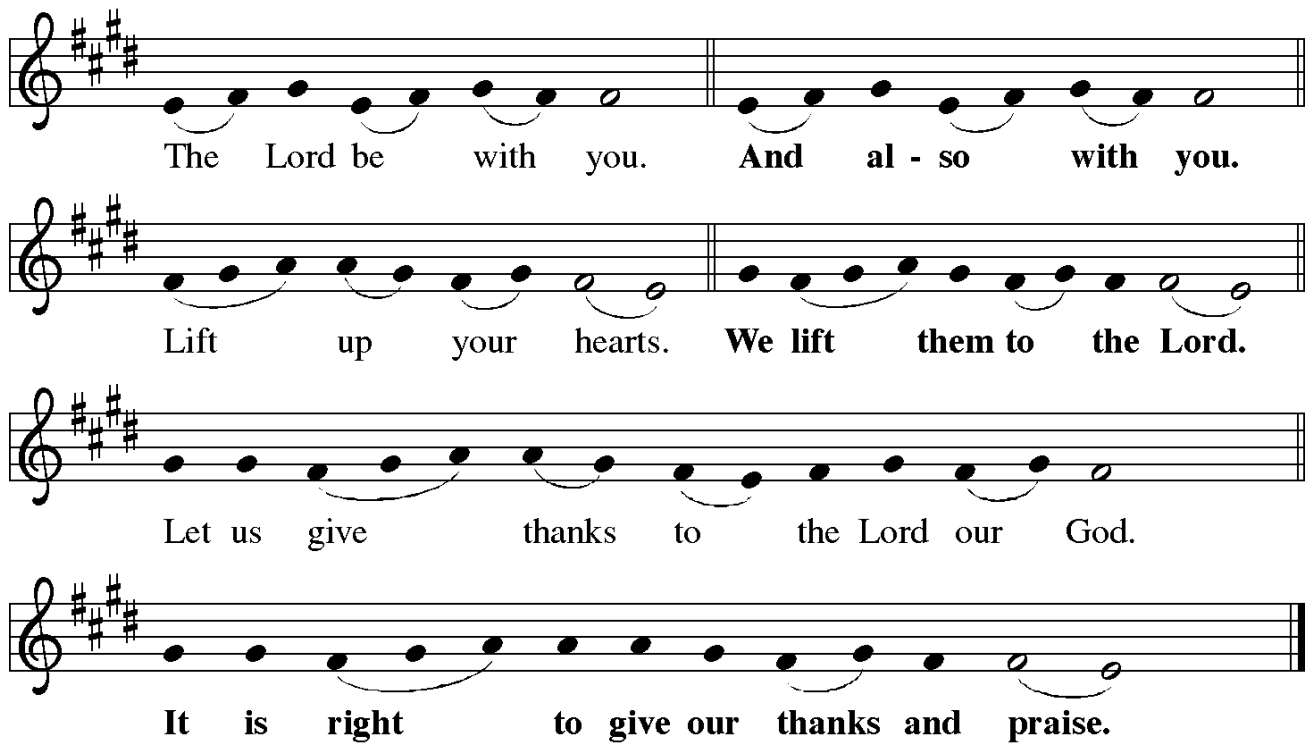
Please stand as you are able.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Generous God,

People: **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

Pastor: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on the earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music concludes with a double bar line.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray as the Lord has taught us:

**People: 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come to the banquet, for now all is ready.

*Please be seated.*



## HOLY COMMUNION



☒ 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, grant us peace.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen you unto life eternal.

People: Amen.



☒ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev- 'ry peo- ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo- ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Pastor:** God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

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## **SENDING**

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### **BLESSING**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG**

“The Bells of Christmas”  
(see music on next page, verses 1, 2, 4, 6)

ELW 298

### **DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

Mark A. Fletcher

*Renewed and strengthened by our worship together, go forth in peace to serve to the world.*

*Following today's Service, we invite you to find fellowship downstairs in the fellowship hall.*

# The Bells of Christmas

## *Det kimer nu til julefest*

*Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer*  
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly  
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly  
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled  
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our

*for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve*  
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly  
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a  
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who  
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from

*hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.*  
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.  
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.  
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.  
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

- 5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,  
 O Dayspring bright, awaited long,  
 O Son of Man, incarnate Word,  
 great David's Son, great David's Lord:
- 6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,  
 and keep your Christmas in our breast;  
 then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,  
 shall swell our jubilee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–1883, alt.  
 Music: DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST, Carl C. N. Balle, 1806–1855



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**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 148**

*(not read during today's service)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights. <sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven. <sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars. <sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created, <sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away. <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; <sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will; <sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; <sup>10</sup>wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds; <sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; <sup>12</sup>young men and maidens, old and young together. <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven. <sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!