

# *Peace Lutheran Church*

**“Peace Through Christ”**

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## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

December 25, 2023



**As We Gather** Over 2000 years ago, there was a group of ordinary shepherds outside watching their sheep just like they had done countless nights before. But, something different happened this night that would change the course of the world forever. An angel appeared to the shepherds to tell them that Jesus had been born. The shepherds rushed off to Bethlehem to see for themselves. Then, they shared "good news of great joy" with whoever would listen. We join the shepherds in that journey to the manger and out into the world with the life-changing message of God's love for the world in Jesus Christ.

**Attention Visitors** We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion this morning. This holy meal is intended for Christians who acknowledge their need of God's forgiveness in their lives. The Bible teaches that Christ's body and blood are received with the elements of bread and wine and that Christians need to examine themselves before receiving this holy meal. (1Cor. 10 & 11). This meal further expresses a unity of faith as we gather at one table to receive the assurance of God's forgiveness through the body and blood of our Lord in the sacrament. We welcome baptized Christians to commune with us, those who believe and confess this same faith and understanding of the sacrament and of the Christian life. Persons who desire to receive grape juice select from the darker glasses. If you have any further questions concerning the sacrament, please ask to speak to the Pastor.

**Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available.** If you would like a hearing aid or large print bulletin please see an usher.

**Childcare** A cry room is located near the church entryway. Please see an usher for guidance.

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us;

**People: we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

## OPENING HYMN

### “Joy to the World”



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we come to worship today, God's Word reminds us:

**People: Behold, all souls are mine; . . . the soul who sins shall die. Ezekiel 18:4**

Pastor: We confess our sins before God and each other, clinging to the certainty of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

*(Silence for personal confession)*

Pastor: The shepherds heard the message of the angels and went with haste to Bethlehem to worship the Christ Child. After they worshiped Him, they went out to witness to what they had seen.

**People: Lord God, there are times when our worship takes a back seat to other priorities that we have in life. Many times, our witness is woefully inadequate and at times misleading. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Fill us with Your Word and grace today and lead us as we live our lives as Your witnesses.**

Pastor: “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” Isaiah 62:11

**People: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11**

Pastor: Christ is the incarnate Son of God sent by the Father as a sacrifice for our sin. God's heart of forgiveness is extended to You in the infant life of Jesus. Therefore, by the grace of our heavenly Father and your faith in the Christ-child, all your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**



**HYMN**

**“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”**



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



*Refrain*  
 Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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**FIRST DIALOGUE** (The coming of the Light)

**Pastor:** In the beginning was the Word

**People:** and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

**Pastor:** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**People:** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**All:** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. *John 1 (ESV)*

**HYMN**

**“What Child Is This”**



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 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!

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** . . . . . *Isaiah 52:7-10*

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” <sup>8</sup> The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*(After the reading)*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** . . . . . *Hebrews 1:1-6*

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? <sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

*(After the reading)*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**“ Now Sing We, Now Rejoice ”**



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.  
 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;  
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
 Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!  
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

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 Tune: German, 14th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**CHRISTMAS GOSPEL** . . . . . *John 1:1-14*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.  
**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(After the reading of the Gospel)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CHRISTMAS HYMN

### “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, our God Most High, Who hears your  
4 “He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by

news to ev - ’ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,

joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

### “What’s in a Name? An Inheritance for the Ages”

*Hebrews 1:1-12*

Deacon Bob Hutchison



## CONFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible  
and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of  
God, begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the  
Father, by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin  
Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us,  
under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day he rose again according to the  
Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the  
right hand of the Father.**

**And he will come again with glory to judge both the living  
and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the  
Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of  
the world to come. Amen**

## SECOND DIALOGUE

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

**People: The Lord has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations. He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Pastor: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;

**People: make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the Lord, the King.**

Pastor: Let the sea resound, and all that is in it, the world, and all who live in it.

**People: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;**

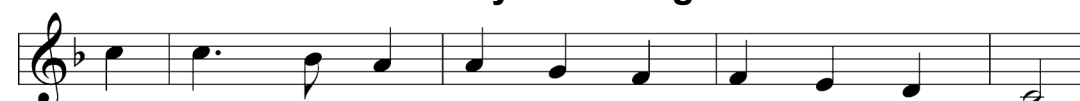
**All: Let them sing before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

## OFFERING

*Please sign the fellowship book located at the aisle seat in each row and pass it down your pew. When finished, pass it back down your pew to the center aisle seat and the ushers will pick it up after the service.*

## HYMN DURING OFFERING

### “Away in a Manger”



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky \_\_\_\_\_ looked down where He lay,  
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: With thankful hearts, Lord, we bring to You our prayers this day. We remember Your many acts of kindness to Your people through all ages. We thank You for Your grace shown to all people through the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. May Your Holy Spirit bless us with His presence in this holy season. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for our world and for all the people who share it with us. Enable us to be witnesses to the Ruler of all people, Jesus Christ. Cause the truth of salvation to be known in every part of the earth. Bless the labors of the missionaries and pastors of the Church as they proclaim the light of the Gospel around the globe. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: On this Christmas Day, we pray for this congregation. Bless its leaders and all of the people with a full measure of joy, that we may echo the songs of the angels in our communities and be shining lights in our time and place. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for those with special needs, including the sick and the shut-in, those who grieve, those who feel alone and distanced in this season, and all others known to each of us who at this time are in need of our petitions. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Blessed Lord, we thank You for the faithful witness of those no longer with us on earth who now share in Your light eternal. May we find inspiration and strength in their faithful witness and seek to serve You constantly all of our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all from whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## + SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION+

### PREFACE

Pastor: May Christ, our Savior, be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord our God, for in Christ He has not deserted you.

**People: Glory and honor, worship and praise, all power and blessings are Yours forever and ever. Amen**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

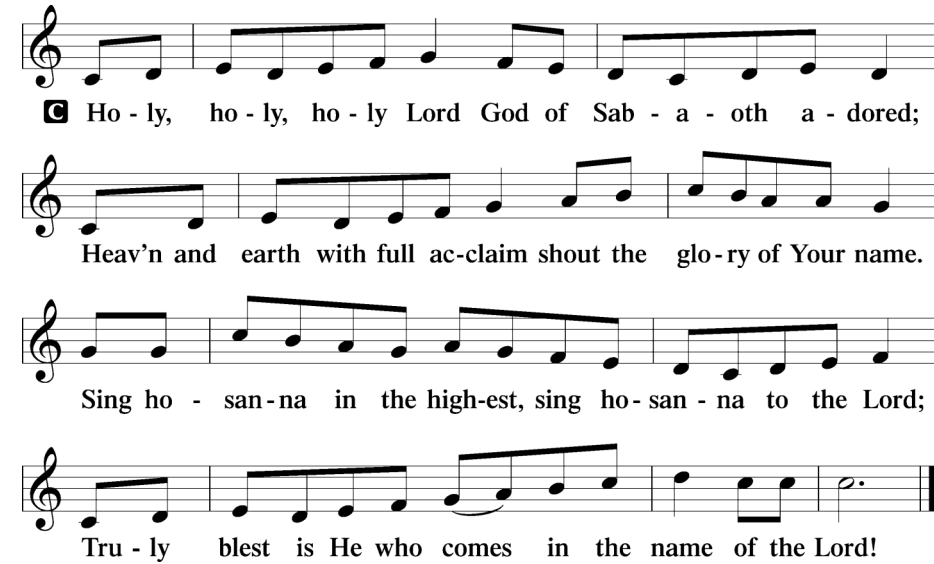
**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:





## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed,  
took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it  
and gave it to His disciples and said: Take, eat; this is  
My+body, which is given for you. This do in  
remembrance of Me.

In the same way also He took the cup after supper,  
and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them,  
saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is My + blood of  
the new testament, which is shed for you for the  
forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of Me.

## PAX DOMINI


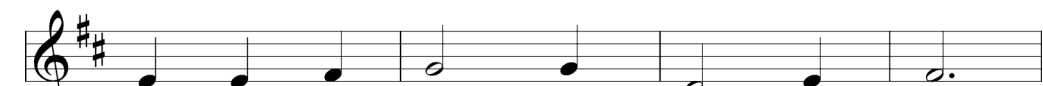

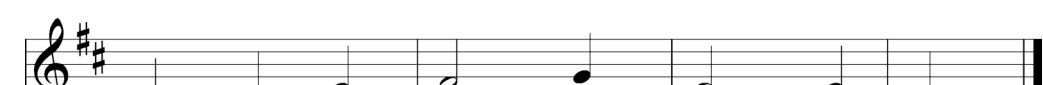
**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** And also with you.





## AGNUS DEI


  
 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
  

  
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
  

  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
  

  
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*(Please be seated)*



## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### “O Come, All Ye Faithful”


  
 1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;  
  

  
 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!  
  

  
 Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
  
*Refrain*  

  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,  
  

  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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### “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new

Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.

Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!



### “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph - ets seen of old,

From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
 And still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.  
 Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:  
 When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.

“Peace on the earth, good - will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,  
 His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom - ise bring,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.  
 And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.  
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

### “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!



### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

#### “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly



host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

### PRAYER

**Pastor:** Gracious Lord, source of light eternal, we thank You for having fed us at Your table once again. Strengthen us through this gracious gift that we may walk in Your light here all our days and live with You as our almighty King until we come to Your glorious presence where we shall serve You forevermore. In the name of Jesus we pray.

**People: Amen.**

### BLESSING


**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto You. The Lord look upon You with favor and + give you peace.

**People: Amen.**


## CLOSING HYMN

### “Go Tell It on the Mountain”


*Refrain*




Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*

Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

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*Please join us for our*

*10 am New Years Eve Service*

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*You are invited to worship with us at our new 2024*

*worship times on Sundays beginning 1/7/24:*

*Traditional Service at 9am & 11am*

*Sunday School & Adult Bible Study at 10:15am*