



Sunday, December 29th, 2024

10:00 a.m.

The First Sunday of Christmas



On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God,

“to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,”

who has gifted us with a savior.

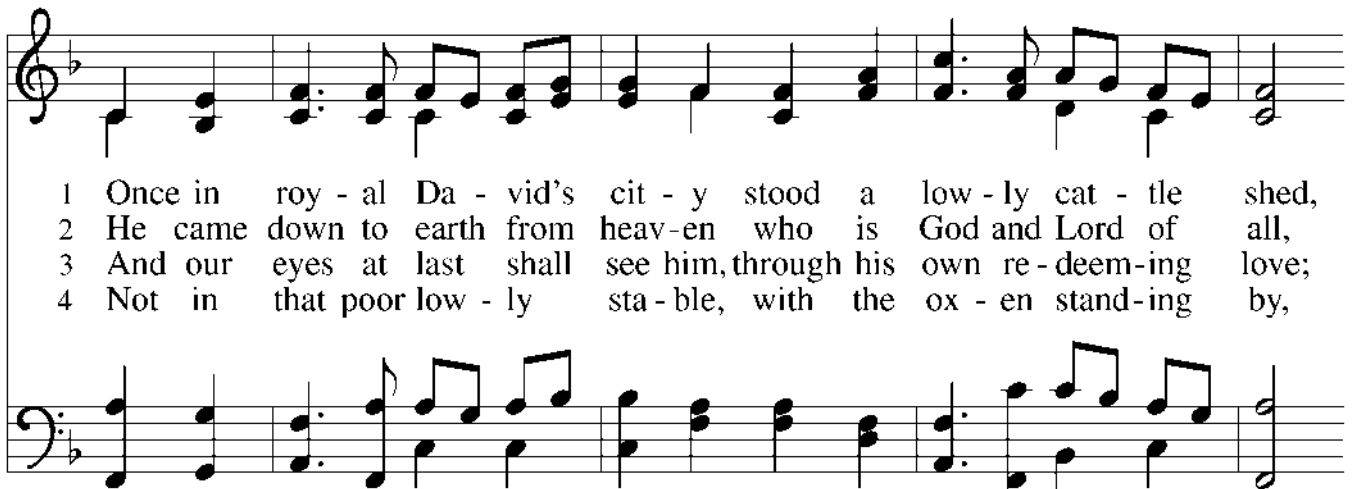
As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.”

It is Christmas, still.

Prelude

Opening Hymn

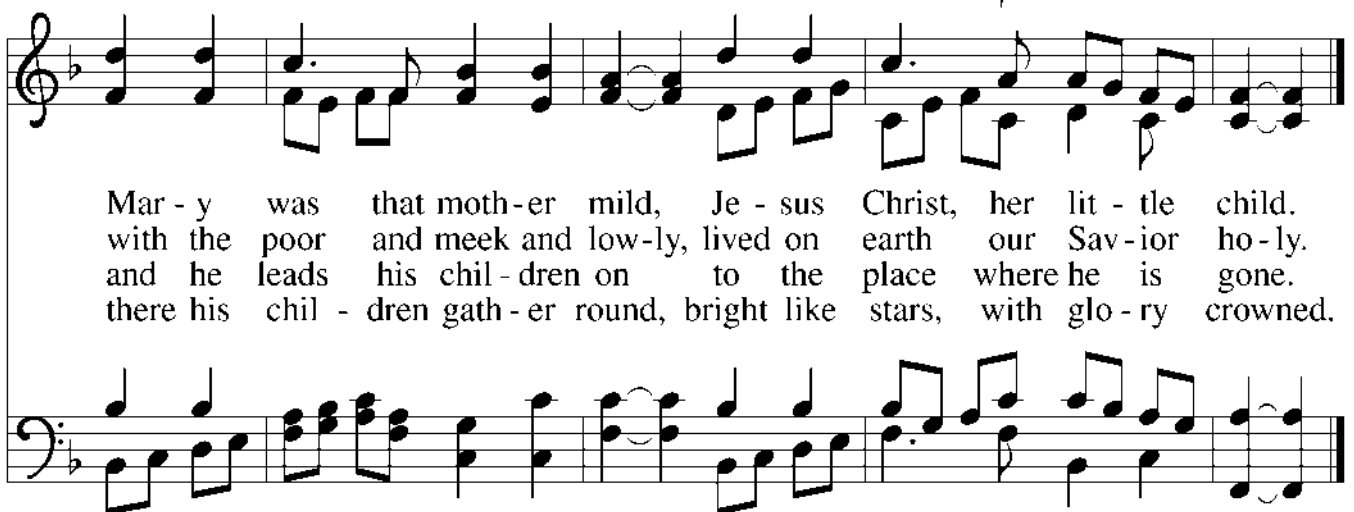
“Once In Royal David’s City”



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Pastor: God-with-us,

All: **we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.**

We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways.

Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

Holy God Have Mercy On Us

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,

ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.'

All Glory Be

1 All glo - ry be to God on high and thanks to him for -
ev - er! What - ev - er Sa - tan's host may try, God
foils their dark en - deav - or. He bends his ear to
ev - 'ry call, and of - fers peace, good - will to all, and
calms the trou - bled spir - it. A - - - men



The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Lector: Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Lector: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

All: Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Lector: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

All: Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Lector: Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

All: who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Lector: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

All: fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

Lector: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

All: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

Lector: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

All: young men and maidens, old and young together.

Lector: Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

All: 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!

The Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

Lector: Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

S160a

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system includes a vocal line with the lyrics 'Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' and a piano accompaniment. The second system includes a vocal line with the lyrics 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.' and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features chords and melodic lines in both hands.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

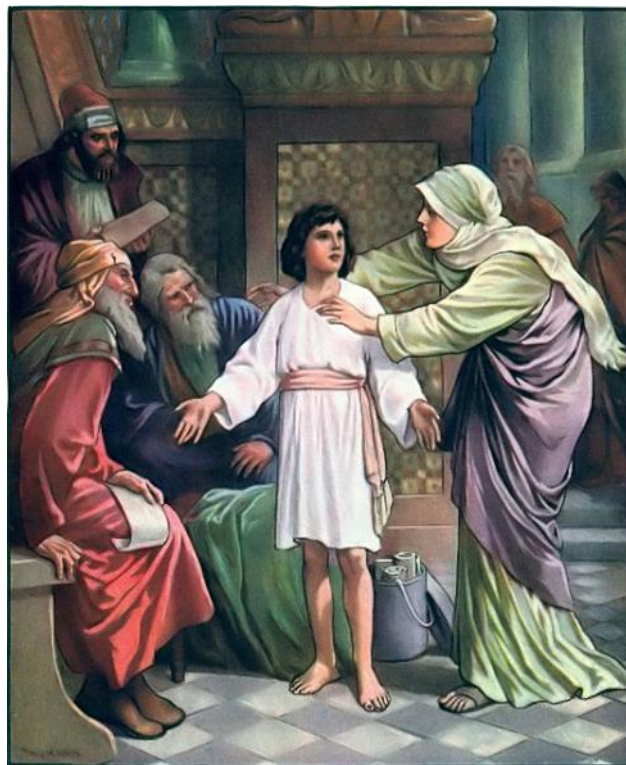
Pastor: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

Pastor: Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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



The Sermon

Pastor Joachim Wilck

Hymn of the Day

“Love Has Come” (*Bring a Torch Janette Isabella*)

1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -

Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.

hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the

you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

The Apostles' Creed

All: 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 into hell.

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

Pastor: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill, Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Peace

Pastor: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor:: Let us share a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

“What Feast of Love” (*Greensleeves*)

1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?

What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Offering Prayer

Pastor: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

All: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

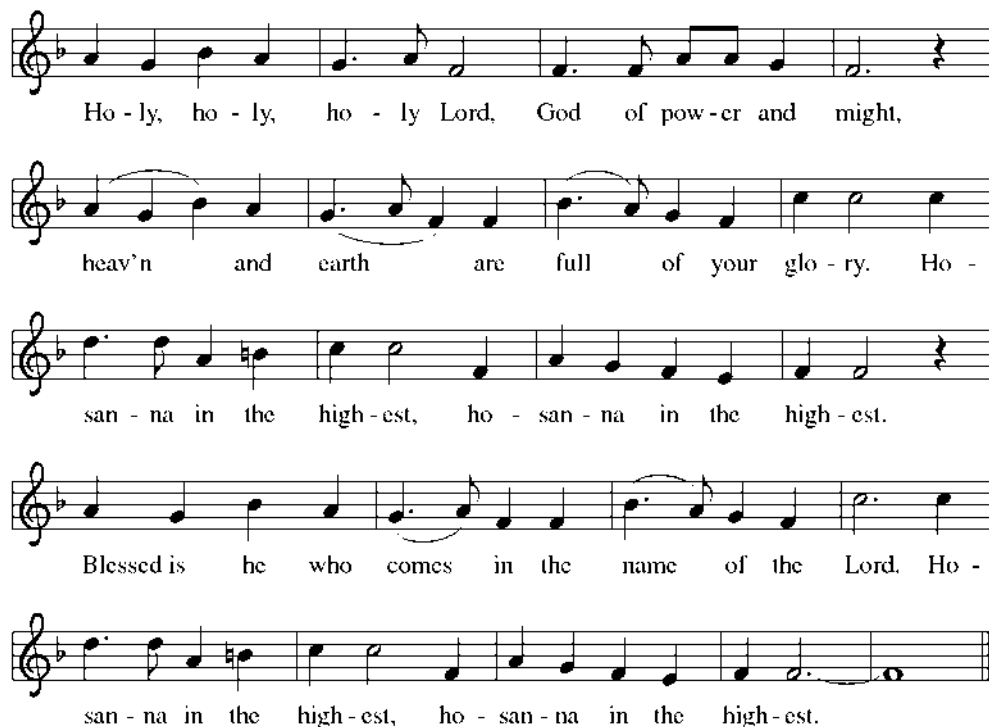
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

All: **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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

Words of Institution

Pastor: 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,

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more active melody in the right hand, primarily using eighth and sixteenth notes.

Pastor: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you. O Lord God Almighty, now as we ought but as we are able;

We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

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

The musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more active melody in the right hand, primarily using eighth and sixteenth notes.

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“’Twas in the moon of wintertime”

1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that
2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a
3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as
4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the

*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but
was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The
ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come.

fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:
as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:
chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.

Refrain
Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

All: Amen.

Farewell and Godspeed

Service Leader: Rainer and Elizabeth Stellrecht, as you leave our congregation, we wish to bid you farewell.

A reading from Exodus: The Lord said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared."

Pastor: *(brief comments about Rainer and Elizabeth's life among us.)*

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his church. When you merged with this congregation we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

We encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts in your new congregation, united with us in the body of Christ and the mission we share.

Let us pray,

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servants Rainer and Elizabeth, who have enriched this congregation and shared their gifts with us.

Now bless and preserve them at this time of transition.

Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed; friends to cheer their way, and a clear vision of that to which you are calling them.

By your Holy Spirit be present in their pilgrimage, that they may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sending

Pastor: The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

All: 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.



Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

2415 Chili Avenue

Rochester, NY 14624

585-247-7824

W[ww.oursaviourrochester.org](http://www.oursaviourrochester.org)

Email: office@oursaviourrochester.org