

**Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church**



**December 28, 2025
1st Sunday of Christmas**

Good Morning and welcome! We invite you to worship with us often, and ask if you need any assistance! If you are visiting us today, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex, please include your address and phone number. Please place your offering envelope in the plate in the Narthex. Thank You!

Remember in your prayers:

Lynn Wolfgang, Oscar & Angie Smith, Erika Zaiser, Brandon Stauffer, Betty Moore, Barbara Stewart, Kathy Gamler, Bill Brensinger, Richard Eck, Becky Yescavage, BillyRay Pearce, Sr., Kathy Sell, Dennis Brooke, Donna Day, Linda Allmendinger, Elaine Dotterer, Jeff Reitnauer, Ralph Rothenberger, Anna Spencer, RuthAnn Goode, Pete Schmoyer, John Logan, Carole Mest, Bob McElwee, Tammy Strunk, Mary Snyder, Wendy Bowers, Linda Bewley, Sherri Schaeffer, Tammy Kemp, Mike Wyda, Marcia Auge, Millie Merkel and Sandy Schaffer.

Friends & Family:

Michelle Hiriak, Linda Stark, Martha Van Parys, Joyce Kemp, Linda Gilbert, Dennis Weller, Ariel Kim, Tanner Antalosky, David Turner, Scott Thomas, Rev. Michael Ware, Robert McCarron and Glenn Monesmith.

Family of:

Jean Daily.

Also members, relatives and friends in the community who are serving in the military including:

Christopher Heffner, BillyRay Pearce, Jr., Noah Heydt, Ben Rhode, Steven Herbst, David Crews, Jeff Lydic, Seth Kurtz, Clinton Bowen, Eli Abner and Johnne Knepp.

Our sister congregation, the Marienkirche in Borna, Germany.
(Website: Kirche-bornaer-land.de)

Please note, names of friends and family will be kept on the bulletin prayer list for one month. If still in need of prayers, these names will then appear in the newsletter prayer list. Names on the friends and family list will normally be kept on the newsletter prayer list for one year if needed. If you wish for names to remain longer, please speak to Pastor Gene, Linda Ritter or contact the church office. Thank you for helping us keep the prayer list current!

This Morning's Worship Assistants:

Ushers: Sharon Renninger* & Mardell Blanford
Lector: Janice Sheetz
Acolyte: Mark Sheetz

December 28, 2025
1st Sunday of Christmas

The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Wayne & Ginny Williams, in Honor of Our Children & Grandchildren and also by Mrs. Diane Morlock, in Memory of her Husband Dale & Parents Beulah Ryan & F. Lawrence DeStefano.

The Bulletins are presented to the glory of God, by Bill & Sheila Eddinger, in Honor of all Staff at Trinity.

The Eternal Flame Candle is presented to the glory of God by Chester Heydt, in Memory of Esther, Lester & Janet Heydt.

- (those who are able may stand)

Prelude

"Prelude"
W. Stickles

Announcements and Concerns

• **Confession and Forgiveness**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

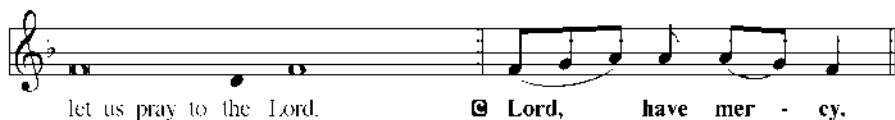
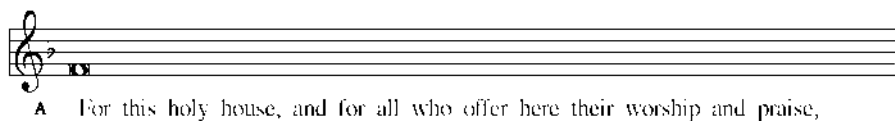
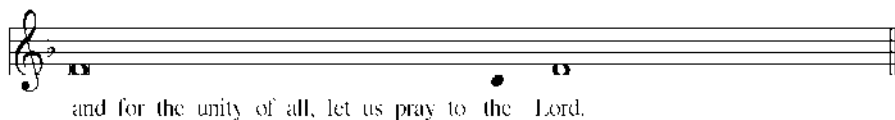
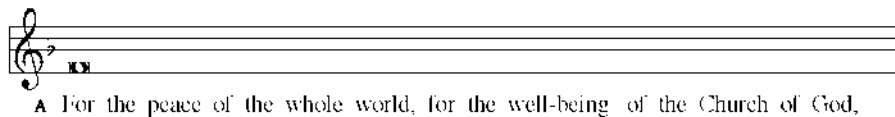
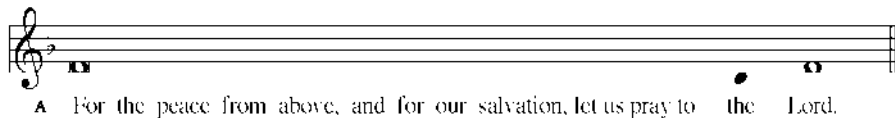
- **Processional Hymn** LBW# 70
"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Greeting

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

C And also with you.

• Kyrie



• Hymn of Praise

Go Tell It on the Mountain

70

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, Be -
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When, lo, a - bove the earth Rang
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born; And

Refrain

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

• **Prayer of the Day**



P Let us Pray ...

C O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

PSALM: Psalm 148

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
- ² **Praise the LORD, | all you angels;**
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
- ³ Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,**
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.
- ⁵ Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,**
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.
- ⁷ Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,**
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;
- ⁹ mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,**
creeping things and | flying birds;
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- ¹² **young | men and maidens,**
old and | young together.
- ¹³ Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **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!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter



Presentation of the Gospel by Heart

³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Senior Choir Anthem

“Bethlehem Morning”

Sermon in Song

• Hymn of the Day

LBW# 40

“What Child is This?”

- Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only
Son of God, eternally begotten of the
Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not
made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from
heaven, by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and
was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead, and his kingdom
will have no end. We believe in the Holy
Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the
Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins. We look for the
resurrection of the dead, and the life of the
world to come. Amen

- **The Prayer Of The Church**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God, in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

After each portion of prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy.

C hear our prayer

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

- **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

- **Our Mission Statement**

P People of Trinity, what is our mission?

C We shall, as individuals and as a congregation, strive through word, worship, and witness to further the kingdom of God by knowing and sharing Christ's Love in our hearts, in our homes, in His church, in the community, and in the world.

- **Benediction**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen, Amen, Amen.

- **Recessional Hymn** LBW# 55
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"

Postlude "Christmas Postlude"
W. Stickles

Reprinted from Sundays & Seasons

December Update on Church Financial Status From The Finance Committee:

The latest monthly report from the Treasurers'shows:

- The General Fund has a Negative Balance

- During November 2025, the General Fund decreased \$2,532 from \$949 to -\$1,583.

Please see the report and additional details including suggested action items from the Finance Committee in the Newsletter, which is available by mail or on the church website.

Questions or input? Kindly reach out to a Finance Committee member as listed in the monthly newsletter, or chairperson Kurt Yescavage.

THANK YOU to Dennis Brooke and Shelly Fullwood and Family for sponsoring the Christmas Tree in Memory of Ruth Brooke and in Honor of Brady, Sallyann, and William Fullwood.

Thank You to Bobby Eshbach, Howard Shafer, and Dennis Schaeffer for transporting and setting up the tree and to everyone who helped to decorate the church for Christmas.

Please join us for an Encore Presentation of our Christmas Cantata, on Sunday, January 4th at 3PM, followed by light refreshments.

Please join us on Monday, January 5 at 6:00PM to take down Christmas decorations.

The deadline for the Annual Report is Sunday, January 4th, please submit your report to Karen in the Church Office.

You may sponsor Altar Flowers, the cost is \$32.00 for one vase and \$64.00 for 2 vases, please contact Mary Snyder. If you wish to sponsor flowers and that date is not available, you can always sponsor an extra bouquet of flowers for \$40.00. When sponsoring flowers, please use a flower envelope found in the rack in the narthex or clearly mark the envelope "Flowers". If you sponsored flowers in the past but no longer wish to, please let Mary Snyder 610-473-8885 or the church office know. You may also sponsor the bulletins for \$15.00 per week, this helps offset the cost of printing them.

Trinity's Gift Card Program - Gift card orders are accepted before and after the church service the first Sunday of each month and distributed the second Sunday. Order forms for Redners, Giant and Raise Right (for other retail gift cards) are available in the narthex. The Raise Right order form is also available for download on Trinity's website. Payment must be submitted with your order. **Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and include your phone number on your order form.** If you have any questions regarding this fund raising program please see Sharon Kemp, Kathy Kuser or Kurt Yescavage.

WAWA Hoagie Coupons Available 1st Sunday of the month at the Scrip Table. Coupons are also available in the church office Monday—Thursday, 9:00AM-2:00PM. Tickets are \$5.00. This project benefits the Social Ministry.

Scout Troop 511 Hoagie Sales: Orders are due by Tuesday, January 6th and pick up will be Wednesday, January 14th. 8" hoagies are made from Dan's Deli, **Cost is \$7.00.** There are ham w/onion, ham no onion, turkey w/onion, turkey no onion, Italian w/onion, Italian no onion, cheese hoagie w/onion, cheese hoagie no onion, mayo, Italian dressing, no tomatoes, no lettuce, no cheese. There is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Winter Weather In the event of inclement winter weather, news of cancellations or postponements of church activities will be posted on the following: 1) Channel 69 2) Online at WFMZ.com, or log on to the Trinity's website: www.trinitybech.com

Coffee Hour - Volunteers are needed to host Coffee Hour for January & February. Please sign up for this time of Fellowship. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

The 2026 General Fund Envelopes are on the table in the Parish Hall, please pick up your envelopes.

The Updated Church Directory is on the table in the Narthex, please take one.

Bibles are available in the rack in the Narthex for you to reference during worship. You may also take home to reference, please return when you are finished.

HOSPITAL INPATIENT STAY: Please contact Pastor Gene if you are admitted to the hospital and would like a visit, due to privacy laws, the hospital no longer contacts the church.

Social Ministry provides meals for shut-ins/members who are in need of meals. If a meal is needed, please contact Kathy Kuser at 610-754-6293.

Need a ride? We have volunteers in the congregation who are willing to provide transportation to medical appointments, etc., for those who can't find a ride. Please contact Pastor Gene 610-322-0901 if you need a ride or would like to volunteer as a driver.

Monthly Free-will Offerings 2025

December - No free-will offering. Thank you for supporting the various Christmas giving opportunities.

Trinity's events for the upcoming week:

Sunday, December 28th-	9:15	Sunday School
	10:30	Worship Services
Monday, December 29th-	6:30	Scouts
Tuesday, December 30th-	6:30	Scouts
Sunday, January 4th-	8:00	Cont. Worship Service w/Communion
	9:15	Sunday School
	10:30	Worship Service w/Communion
	3:00	Encore Christmas Cantata

**Next Week's Worship Assistants:
Sunday, January 4th:**

Assisting Minister: Jenn McCarron
 Server: Waynette Shafer
 Ushers: Howard Shafer* & Dan Kuser
 Lector: Jenn McCarron
 Acolyte: Vicki Mest
 Pole Candles: Bob & Diane McElwee

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS: 12/21/2025

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	
<u>Worship/S.S.</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Hunger</u>
59/18	\$6,311.00	\$20.00
	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Bldg. Maint.</u>
	\$50.00	\$50.00

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	
<u>Worship</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Hunger</u>
17	\$1,520.00	\$55.00
	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Bldg. Maint.</u>
	0	\$100.00

<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u>Total Offering</u>
76	\$7,831.00

The Community Clothing Rack Schedule

1st Wednesday
Donations Accepted

2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesdays
Shoppers Welcome

2nd Thursday
Shoppers Welcome
6:00PM-8:00PM

5th Wednesday
CLOSED

Hours
1:00PM-4:00PM

Summer Hours Only
June-August
9:00AM-12:00PM

Closed on all major holidays.
In the case of inclement weather,
Refer to Boyertown Area School district closure.
CCR is a ministry of St. Luke Lutheran Church
Our mission is to serve Jesus Christ by providing
necessary clothing to the underserved.

www.StLukeGilbertsville.org

Readings for Personal Devotion



M	Hosea 11:1-11
T	Jeremiah 31:15-22
W	Matthew 13:54-58
Th	Exodus 1:15--2:10
F	Hebrews 11:23-28, 32-40
Sa	Psalms 71:1-16

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. Eugene C. Zaiser, DMin.,
Pastor

Ms. LaRue Sheetz, Director of Music

Mrs. Karen J. Smith, Parish Secretary

Mrs. Catherine M. Yoder, Sexton

The Members of this Congregation are its
Ministers

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(Or by Appointment)

1749 South Main Street, Bechtelsville, PA
19505
610-369-1281

Church Office E-Mail:
trinitybech@outlook.com

Pastor Zaiser's E-Mail:
pastorzaiser@outlook.com

Website: www.trinitybech.com

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 . .

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 . .

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

Refrain

night . that was . . so deep.
 tin - ued both day . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star . . wher - ev - er it went.
 place . where Je - sus lay.

e

5 T
F

Text: English
Tune: English

Let C

1 L
2 S
3 L

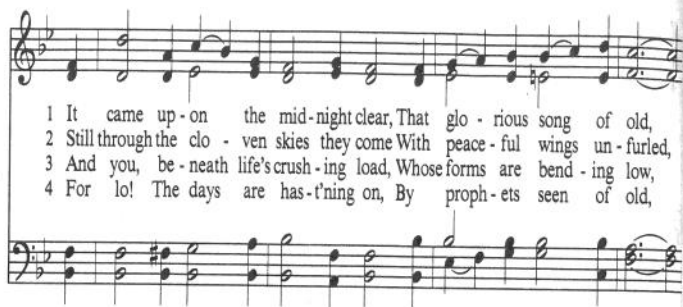
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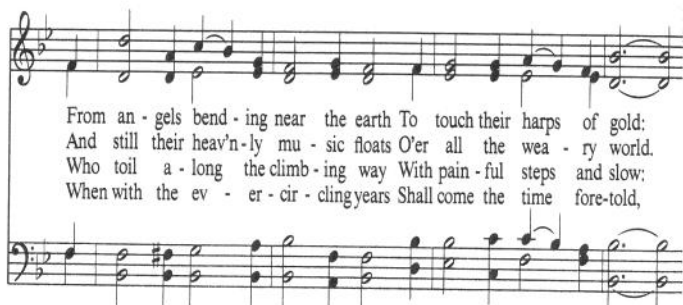
Text: Bohemian
Tune: Bohemian

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

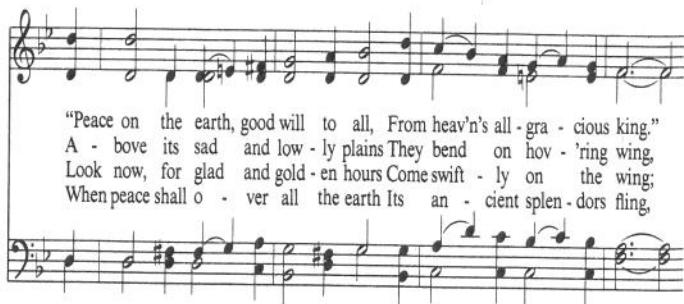
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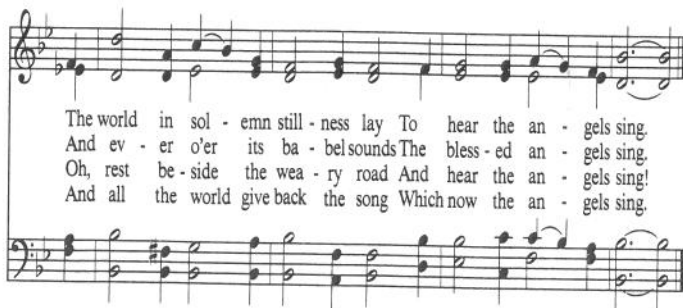
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, By proph - ets seen of old,



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 the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow:
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Shall come the time fore - told,

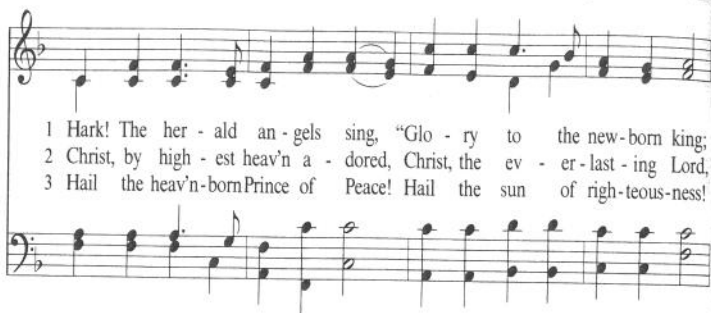


"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing;
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,

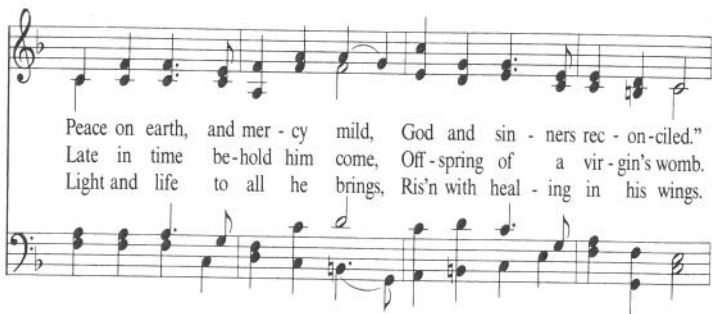


The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its ba - bels sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 Oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road And hear the an - gels sing!
 And all the world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

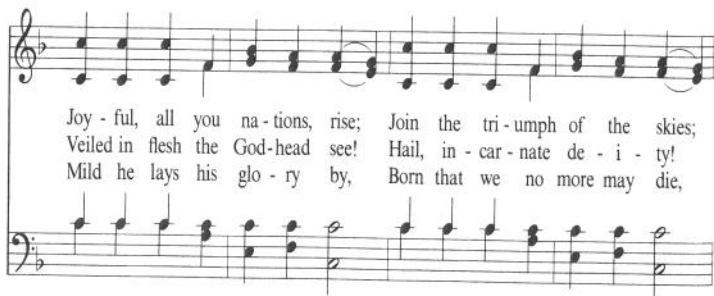
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



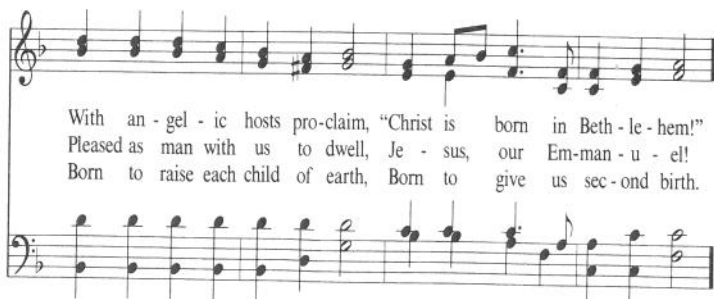
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!



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



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



With an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
 Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Text: Charles
 Tune: Felix

The

1
 2
 3

g

Refrain

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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

MENDELSSOHN
77 77 Dand refrain

The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem

61

1 The hills are bare at Beth - le - hem, No fu - ture for the
2 The stars are cold at Beth - le - hem, No warmth for those be -
3 The heart is tired at Beth - le - hem, No hu - man dream un -

world they show; Yet here new life be - gins to
neath the sky; Yet here the ra - diant an - gels
bro - ken stands; Yet here God comes to mor - tal

grow, From earth's old dust a green - wood stem.
fly, And joy burns new, a fi - 'ry gem.
hands, And hope re - newed cries out: "A - men!"

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Tune: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

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