

# Christmas Eve

*2021*



## Concordia Lutheran Church

Conover, North Carolina

# Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given...

In memory of...

by...

Susan Allison.....	Kyle, Karen, Caroline & Kate McClure
Don Bogert.....	Hunter & Dalton Bogert
Don Bogert, Jr. ....	Rick & Mary Anne Wike
Smitty Bolick.....	Opal Bolick & Family
Charles Brady.....	Doug Brady
Chloe Brady.....	Doug Brady
Christine Brewer.....	Steve, Allison & Philip Brewer
James & Beulah Mae Brewer.....	Linda, Steve, Tim, David & Anita
Robert & Cora Belle Carpenter.....	Rick & Mary Anne Wike
Dr. Harvey Christensen.....	Pree, Scott, Kelly & Kim
Dear Departed Friends.....	the Blackmons
Joann Forte.....	Mike & Lesa Spake
Reverend David Gerken.....	Michael & Tracie Gerken & Family
Frank & Virginia (Moser) Gilbert.....	Debbie Kuehnert
Troy Goodin, Wes & Nancy Hass.....	Pree Christensen
Cody Harrelson.....	Roger and Vicki Shull
Hailey Hill.....	Pree Christensen
Joe Kaylor.....	Jake & Melinda Parks
Rev. Elder & Lila (Gilbert) Kuehnert.....	Debbie, Dan, Don, David Kuehnert
Paul & Marie Kuehnert.....	Debbie Kuehnert
Brian Long.....	his mother, Jane Long
Charlsie Lutz.....	Roger & Vicki Shull
Bobby Matthews.....	Roger & Vicki Shull
Catherine B. McRary.....	Opal Bolick & Family
Tom Moser.....	Pat, Julie, Ginger & Matthew
Jerry Murphy.....	Greg Murphy
Mary Phillips.....	her Family
Joan Rowe & Sue Smith.....	the Canrobert Family
Wilfred & Merle Sigmon.....	Gina, Greg, Betsy, Jason & Shan
David N. Smith.....	Sandy & family
Darlene Spake.....	Mike & Lesa Spake
Jack & Phyllis Spake.....	Mike & Lesa Spake
Grady & Fannie Wike.....	Rick & Mary Anne Wike
Frieda Williams.....	Ronald & Children

In Honor of...

by...

Dennis & Linda Arendt & Sandra Gerken.....	Michael & Tracie Gerken & Family
The Geml Family.....	the Canrobert Family
Judy Harman.....	Susan Harman
David & Matthew Hafer.....	Carla Hafer
Doris Kaylor.....	Jake & Melinda Parks
Frankie Matthews.....	Roger & Vicki Shull
Faith Elizabeth Seales on her 15 <sup>th</sup> birthday, 12/19.....	Grandma Sandy Smith
Larry Waters for 20 years of cleaning up after us.....	LWML
My Children Scott, Kelly, Kim, Dan & Avery.....	Pree Christensen
Grandson Avery Hill.....	Pree Chrisensen
Rick & Mary Anne Wike.....	Keith & Lisa Travis

# ChristMass Eucharist with Candlelight

December 24, 2021

6:30PM, 10PM

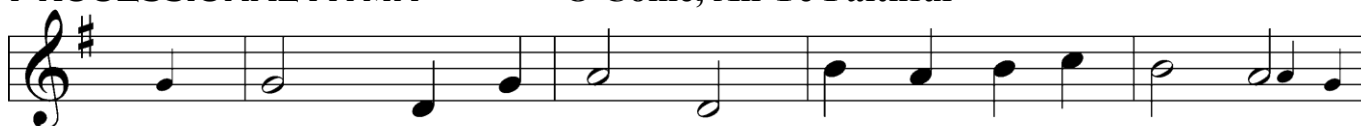
## PRELUDE

*This time is used to prepare our hearts for worship.*

## T Gathering T

*We stand and face the rear of the nave.*

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN "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!

### INVOCATION & RESPONSIVE DIALOGUE

*LSB 907, adapted*

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

**C Amen.**

P God Himself is present:

**C Let us now adore Him, and with awe appear before Him.**

P God is in His temple;

**C All within keep silence; humbly kneel in deepest reverence.**

P God is with us.

**C Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**

### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

P Let us confess God's righteous judgment of our sins and beg for forgiveness.

**C O God, on this holy night we gather to celebrate the gift of Your answer to our sin and need. Even before we ask it You have provided for us what we need the most. Grant us the gift of Your forgiveness as we confess all our sin with which we have offended You and brought suffering and death upon ourselves. May the love You have for the whole world be upon us; may Your Son be born in us this day; may Your forgiveness cleanse us and give us life for the sake of His name. Amen.**

P "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*We sit.*

# T Word T

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## ANTHEM

6:30 “See in Yonder Manger Low” arr. John Behnke  
*See in yonder manger low, Born for us on earth below,  
See the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.  
Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption’s happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

*Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in heights sublime, sits amid the cherubim.  
Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption’s happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

*Sacred Infant; all divine, what a tender love was think,  
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.  
Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption’s happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

*Teach, oh, teach us, holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee in thy sweet humility.  
Hail the ever blessed morn, Hail redemption’s happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

10:00 “Before the Marvel of This Night” Schalk  
*Before the marvel of this night  
Adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
Then tear the sky apart with light  
And with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,  
That fear and death and sorrow cease:  
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace,  
Sing peace, sing gift of peace.*

*Awake the sleeping world with song,  
This is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng,  
In royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heav’nly bliss  
A teasing taste of what they miss:  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,  
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!*

*The love that we have always known,  
Our constant joy and endless light,  
Now to the loveless world be shown,  
Now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love,  
That rules our universe above:  
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love,  
Sing love, sing God is love!*

## EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and face the cross as it moves to the center of the nave.*

**GOSPEL PROCESSION**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**380**



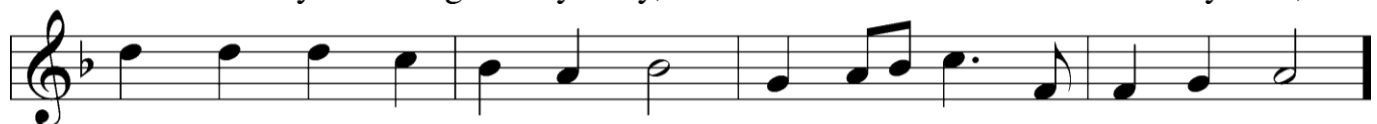
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



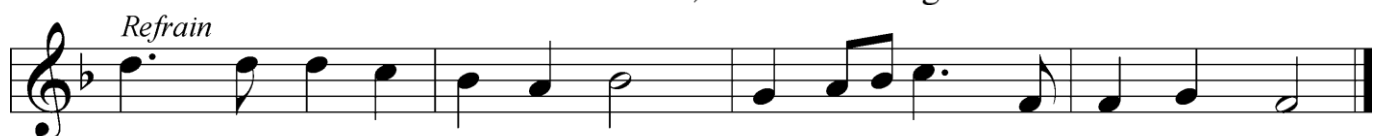
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her-ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King!”

Tune and text: Public domain

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C Glory to You O Lord.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Angels We Have Heard on High”



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

*We stand.*

**CHRISTMAS CREED**.....*the second article and Luther’s explanation*

P What is the second article of the Creed?

**C And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P What does this mean?

**C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## **PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE**

*To each petition the assembly responds:*

P Lord, in Your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**





## **T    Sacrament    T**

### **PREFACE**

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

*Colossians 3:1*

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Psalm 136*

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P** Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and entered human history in the person of Your Son so that we might enter Your eternal kingdom. He fulfilled the prophecy and was born of the Virgin so that He might die on a cross and thereby give us eternal life. As we celebrate His birth, we give thanks for our new birth, for His abiding with us throughout our journey, and for the assurance of heaven He won for us. Grant us now that we may in true faith receive Him under bread and wine, together with the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. To You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be all praise and glory, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your birth to be among us, Your life, death and

resurrection. As we celebrate Your coming, we now await Your final coming to reign over all.  
So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### 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

### PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

*We sit.*

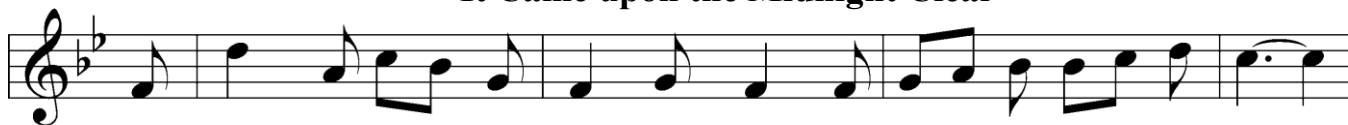
### DISTRIBUTION

Anthem 10:00 "Love Came Down at Christmas"

Arr. Dobrinski

### "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

366



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.

Text and tune: Public domain

### "Away in a Manger"

364



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.

Tune and text: Public domain



**“On Christmas Night all Christians Sing”**

377



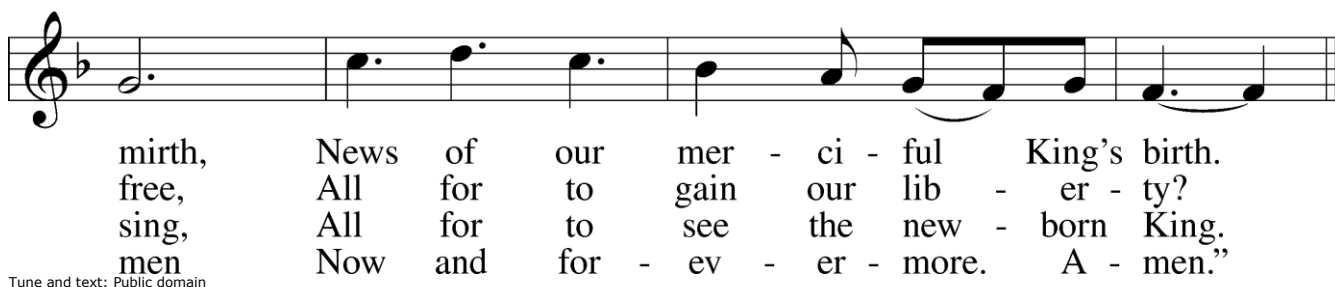
1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the  
 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er  
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To  
 made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since  
 in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then  
 sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great  
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us  
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may  
 made the an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God and peace to



*We stand.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Incarnate Lord, may the gift of Your body and blood strengthen us and enable us to serve You who became flesh to serve us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, now and forevermore.

**C Amen.**

## THE CANDLE LIGHTING

*The Pastor, taking a large candle, lights it from a candle on the Advent Wreath, symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World. Then the Pastor says:*

**P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

*John 8:12*

**C The light no darkness can overcome.**

*John 1:5*

**P** The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

*Isaiah 9:2a*

**C The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

*John 1:5*

**P** On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

*Isaiah 9:2a*

**C We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.**

*John 1:14b*

**P** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

*Isaiah 9:6*

**C In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

*John 1:4*

*The Pastor gives light to the ushers, they in turn give light to the first worshipper in each pew, who passes it on.  
 (please tip only your unlit candle to receive the flame.)*

**CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!

*Raise candle:* **CHRIST, THE SAVIOR, IS BORN!**  
**CHRIST, THE SAVIOR, IS BORN!**

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.



**T      Sending      T**

**BENEDICTION**

**P** Help us, Lord Jesus, to carry this light into the world in our words and in our actions.

**C** May we, who have celebrated the birth of Jesus our Light and our Hope, be signs of light and hope to those around us.

**P** As the light of these little candles lightens this darkness, make us ablaze with the light of life, Christ himself, so that others may know the true Light.

**C** Hear us, O Lord, as the brilliance of the Light of Christ opens our hearts, and hands and voices to serve with great joy.

**P** Christmas peace and joy through Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours. The blessing of God almighty—Father, T Son, and Holy Spirit—be and abide with you forever.

**C Amen.**

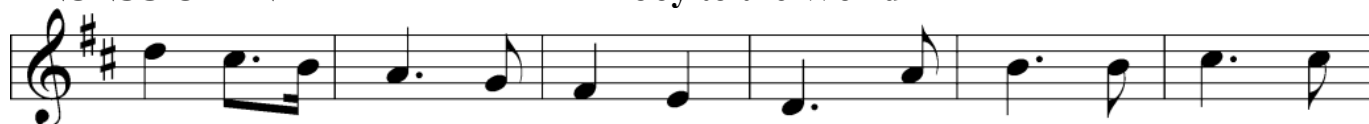
*Please extinguish your candles.*

Following the recessional, you may place your candles and holders in the boxes at the exits.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**“Joy to the World”**

**387**



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  
play, 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.

**POSTLUDE** 6:30  
10:00

*“Hallelujah Chorus”*  
*“Gigue on ‘Joy to the World’”*

*G. F. Handel*  
*arr. Sondra Tucker*

**T T T**

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TONIGHT**

The Reverend Michael A. Geml.....Senior Pastor

Pat Welch.....Lector, 6:30

Shelby Graff.....Lector, 10:00

Ellie Adams, Anthony Charles, Larkyn Gerken.....Worship Assistants, 6:30

Jennifer Montgomery, Kelly Roth, Sean Roth, Abby Pruitt.....Worship Assistants, 10:00

The Choirs of Concordia Lutheran Church

The Concordia Handbell Choir

Paul Karre.....Trumpet

Kyle McClure.....Organist, Minister of Music