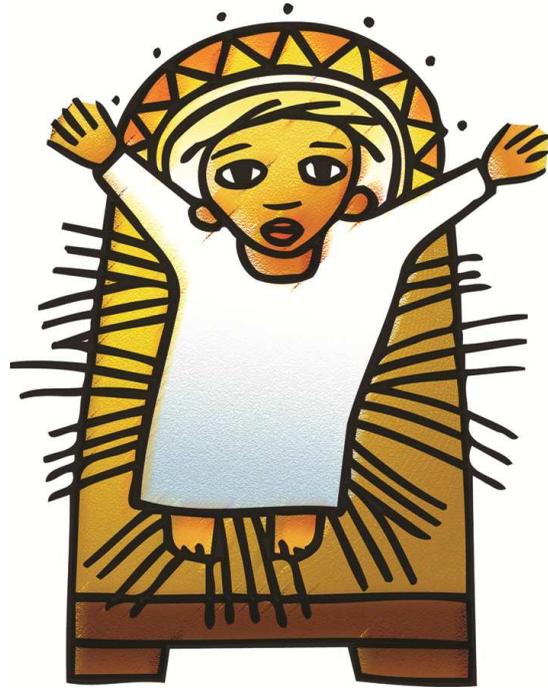




Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord
Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day
December 25, 2016 - 8:30 a.m.



INTRODUCTION

Martin Luther based his carol “From Heaven Above” (ELW 268, LBW 51) on a refrain used for a sixteenth-century singing game. In the game, the song sets up a riddle to be solved. Within the nativity story, who would have proclaimed this text?

*“From heaven above to earth I come
to bear good news to every home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing.”*

In the hymn, the stanzas in quotation marks become the words of the angels rejoicing at Jesus’ birth, while the other stanzas offer commentary and prayers. By sending Jesus into our world, God answers the riddle of sin and our human condition. We are set free to proclaim with the angels: “Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given.”

Prelude

Bells

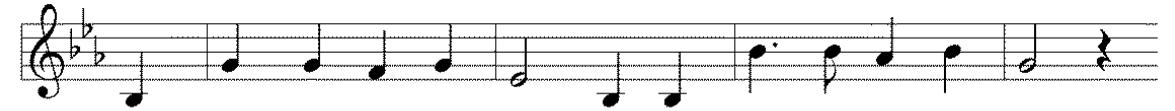
Announcements

From Heaven Above: A Service for Christmas Day

Gathering Song

When Christmas Morn Is Dawning

LBW 59



1 When Christ-mas morn is dawn - ing I wish that I could be
2 How kind of you, our Sav - ior, for us to come to earth.
3 We need you, O Lord Je - sus, to be our dear-est friend.



there by the man - ger - cra - dle God’s Son, new-born, to see,
Oh, may we not by sin - ning de - spise your low - ly birth.
Your love will guard and guide us and keep us to life’s end.



there by the man - ger - cra - dle God’s Son, new-born, to see.
Oh, may we not by sin - ning de - spise your low - ly birth.
Your love will guard and guide us and keep us to life’s end.

Dialogue

Who are these angels who come to earth,
bearing the news of the Christ child’s birth?
Who are these shepherds who run to see,
and worship the babe on bended knee?
Who is this child, so small, so slight,
of whom the angels sang that night?
Who is this king, a manger his throne,
who humbles himself to make us his own?
Who is this God who sends a Son
into our midst, the promised one?

Greeting and Prayer

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Incarnate God, on this Christmas Day we give you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness. Grant that we, like the angels over Bethlehem, may sing your praises in our hearts and lives. **Amen.**

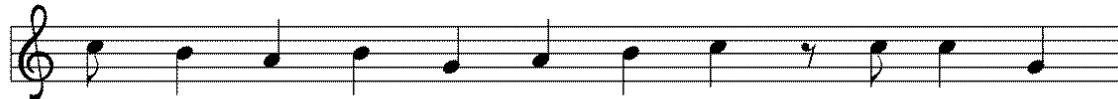
Who Are These Angels Who Come to Earth? Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

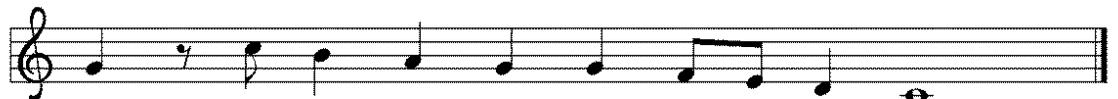
Carol *From Heaven Above* ELW 268 sts. 1-3



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, God's Son most high, who hears your



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
be and from all sin will set you free."

Who Are These Shepherds Who Run to See? Lesson: Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

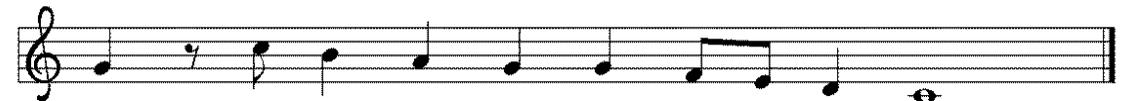
Carol *From Heaven Above* ELW 268 sts. 4-6



4 "The bles - sing that the Fa - ther planned the Son holds
5 "These are the signs that you will see to let you
6 Now let us all with joy - ful cheer go with the



in his in - fants hand, that in his king - dom, bright and
know that it is he: in man - ger bed, I swad - dling
shep - herds and draw near to see this won - drous gift of



fair, you may with us his glo - ry share."
clothes the child who all the ear - th up - holds."
God, the bles - sed child to us be - stowed.

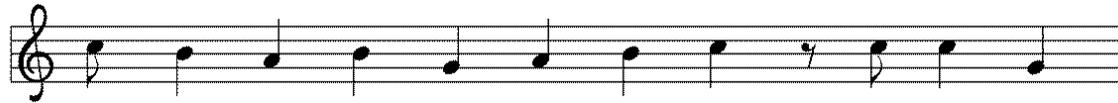
Who Is This Child, So Small, So Slight? Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

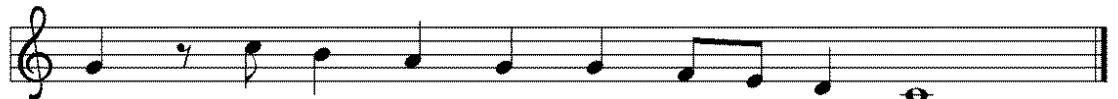
Carol *From Heaven Above* ELW 268 sts. 7-9



7 "Look, look, dear friends, look o - ver there! What lies with -
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble guest, through who this
9 O Lord, you a thousand times as fair and set with



in that man - ger bare? Who is that love - ly lit - tle
sin - ful world is blest! You turned not from our needs a -
gold and je - wels rare, still such a cra - dle would not



one? The ba - by Je - sus, God's dear Son.
way; how can our thanks such live re - pay?
do to rock a prince so gre - at as you.

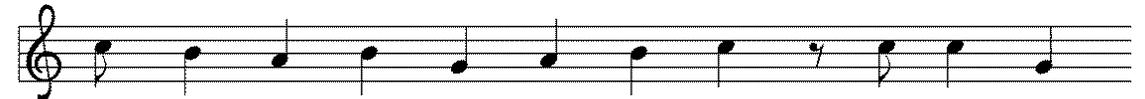
Who Is This King, a Manger His Throne? Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

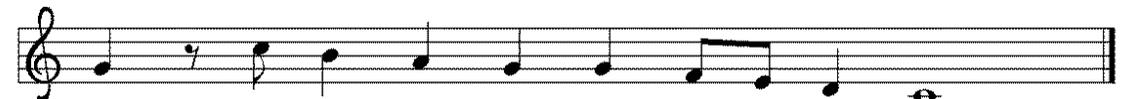
Carol *From Heaven Above* ELW 268 sts. 10-11



10 Were earth a thou - sand times as fair and set with
11 For vel - vets soft and sil - ken stuff you have but



gold and je - wels rare, still such a cra - dle would not
hat and straw so rough on which as King so rich and



do to rock a pri - nce such as you.
great to be en - thron - ed in hum - ble state.

Who Is This God, Who Sends a Son? Lesson: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

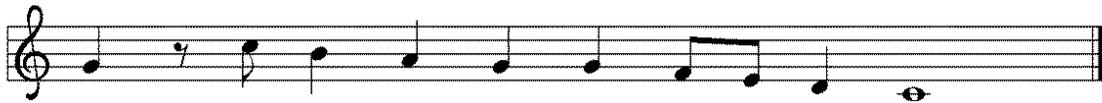
Carol *From Heaven Above* ELW 268 sts. 12-14



12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to

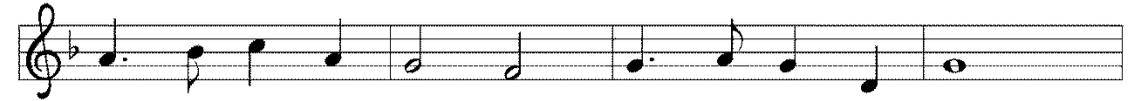


bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song;
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

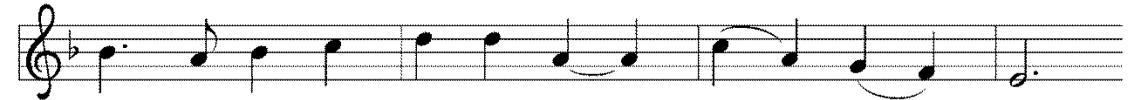
Hymn of the Day *In The Bleak Midwinter*



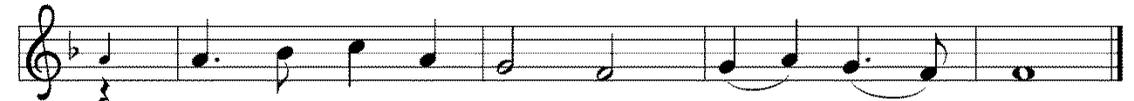
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.



Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally, and may include the following responsive prayer.

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.

You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.

You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.

You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

MUSICAL OFFERING

During this time, the table is set.

Assembly song or other music may accompany or follow the gathering of the offering.

Offering Song

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270 st. 1

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands.

Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward.

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Offering Prayer

God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts,

help us to bless the lives of others

in the strength of your holy name.

Amen.

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.

Blessing

May the God who comes from heaven above
be born in your hearts and lives this day and always.

Amen.

Postlude



Sending Song

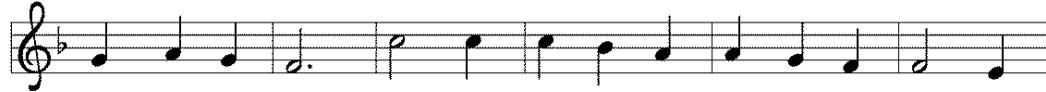
Love Has Come

ELW 292

The 8:30 a.m. worship service is broadcast weekly on KIOW-FM 107.3.



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!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with us. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Preaching: Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey
Organist: Ruth Sheldon
Ushers:
Reader: Roy Kvale
Video Coordinator: Carol Abbey
Videographer: Hope Levine
Altar Guild for December 24-31: Sharon Casey, Marilyn Hoffman, Sharon Johnson, Gloria Kvale, Janet Swenson, Pat Young

The radio broadcast this morning is sponsored by the Haugen Family. May Jesus Christ's healing and blessing be with you.

Reserve your special date to sponsor the 2017 8:30 a.m. worship service broadcast on KIOW (107.3 FM) radio in Forest City. The service can also be heard at 8:30 a.m. on cable channel 2. Call the office to reserve your dates. Cost for 2017 is \$83. Dates available: March 26, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, June 11, July 9, 16, Sept. 3, 17, Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, Dec. 10.

We also have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday. Call the office to reserve a date in 2017.

PRAYER
changes things

Please remember in prayer this week: The family & friends of Rhoda Brue

The family & friends of Robert John Barrett. Robert is the son of Marge Olson and the brother of Donna (Gary) Harig and Karla (Chris) Eaton.

Those worshipping December 17/18: 46 Giving: Not available
2017 Pledges may still be returned to the office. Any donations that you would like credited for 2016 must be received or be postmarked by December 31, 2016.

2017 Offering envelopes are on tables in the elevator entry.

This Week at Salem

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

OFFICES CLOSED

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

OFFICES CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

OFFICES CLOSED

1:45 p.m. LMCC Communion

2:30 p.m. Mills Harbour Communion

5:15 p.m. Good Samaritan – Lounge

THURSDAY/FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29-30

OFFICES CLOSED

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

NO SERVICE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

8:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service – Sanctuary

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

OFFICES CLOSED



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