

### INTRODUCTION

The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

#### Salem Contact Information:

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Salem Lutheran Church      401 S Lake St      Lake Mills IA 50450

### PRELUDE

### BELL

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In ✝ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy! **Amen.**

### GATHERING CAROL      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*      (congregation vs. 2-4)      ELW #275



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

### GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *Angels We have Heard on High* (congregation vs. 2-3) **ELW #289**



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.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**PSALMODY**

*The psalm today is spoken responsively beginning with the lector*

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

**what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,**

All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

**whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Psalm 8**

*"For unto you is born a SAVIOR, who is Christ the Lord"*

**LESSON**

A reading from Isaiah

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**RESPONSE**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain)***

**ELW #283**

*The cantor will sing one time through in Latin. The Assembly is invited to sing the refrain the second time through in English.*

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**LESSON**

A reading from Matthew

**Matthew 1:18-21**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."



**CAROL** **Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming** (congregation vs. 2-4) **ELW #272**



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is **CHRIST**, the Lord”

**LESSON** **Isaiah 61:1-3, 11**

A reading from Isaiah

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.



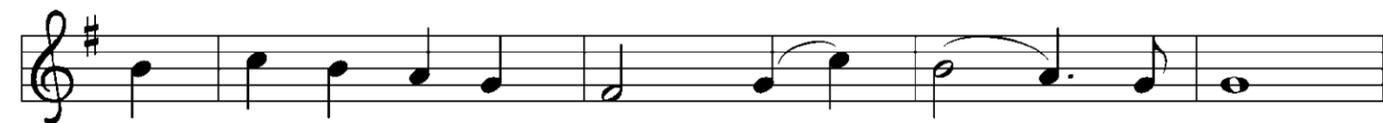
**RESPONSE** **O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain)** **ELW #283**

The cantor will sing one time through in Latin. The Assembly is invited to sing the refrain the second time through in English.

Refrain



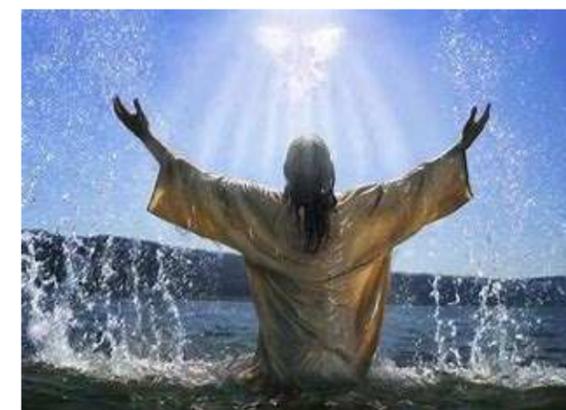
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**LESSON** **John 1:19-23, 29-34**

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup>And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."





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.

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the **Lord**”

**LESSON** *Isaiah 6:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

The cantor will sing one time through in Latin. The Assembly is invited to sing the refrain the second time through in English.

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**LESSON** *Luke 1:26-35*

A reading from Luke

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."



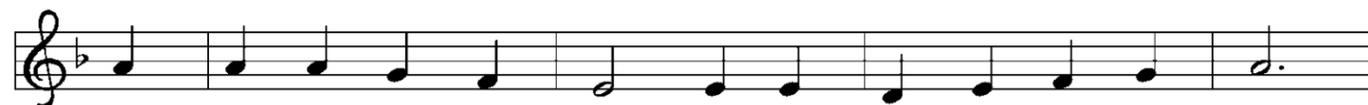
CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (congregation vs. 2-4) ELW #279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

*A brief silence.*

God of wisdom, open our ears to hear your grace through the words and deeds of children. Inspire the youngest and oldest in our midst to learn from one another with humility and patience. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of creation, praise to you for hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests, animals wild and tame, sea monsters, birds, and reptiles. Spark delight in our hearts for all that you have made. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, call us to peace and bind us together in perfect unity. Make wars to cease. Guide the leaders of the nations in your way of wisdom, compassion, and tolerance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, mend the broken hearts of those who suffer this day. Treasure everyone who struggles with addiction, loneliness, hunger, unemployment, mental illness, or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, draw us into the body of Christ and make us grow in faith and hope. Fill us with hearts of thanksgiving made visible in our words and actions for the sake of the whole world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of delight, fill us with songs of praise and hope even in the midst of despair and death. Comfort the grieving (*especially*). Strengthen our faith until the day we will be gathered around your throne singing in eternal praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**OFFERING CAROL****What Feast of Love**

(congregation vs. 2-3)

**ELW #487**

- 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!

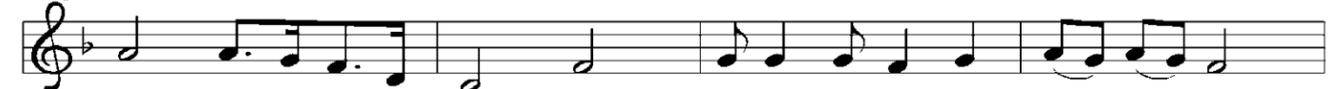
**BLESSING**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**
**SENDING CAROL****Go Tell It on the Mountain**

(congregation vs. 2-3)

**ELW #290***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**

Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Preaching:** Pastor Joel Guttormson  
**Organist:** Ruth Sheldon  
**Ushers:** Dolly Gregor & Margaret Okland  
**Acolytes:** Kelsey Kirschbaum, Elijah Menke

**Reader:** Ryan Knudtson  
**Cantor:** Jennifer Rice Hilton  
**Altar Guild for December 22-30:** Gloria Kvale, Pat Thorson

The radio broadcast this morning is given by the Haugen family. May the blessings of the seasons be with you.

**Readings for next week:** Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14,  
 Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30**

8:30 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary  
 9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship - Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 31**

8:00 a.m. Monday Morning Coffee - Lounge  
 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Clothes Closet Open  
 2:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 OFFICES CLOSED**

5:30 p.m. Casual Communion Service - Chapel

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 3**

9:30 a.m. Grace Circle - Library; Ruth Circle - Faye Aamodt  
 2:00 p.m. Martha Circle - Library

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 5**

9:30 a.m. Salem/One in Christ Youth Service Group Breakfast  
 - Fellowship Hall

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6**

8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Service  
 9:35 a.m. Praise Creature Choir- Choir Room; Faith  
 Formation - Chapel;  
 Coffee Fellowship - Fellowship Hall  
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service - Sanctuary  
 2:00 p.m. "Mosquitoes and Miracles" - Sanctuary

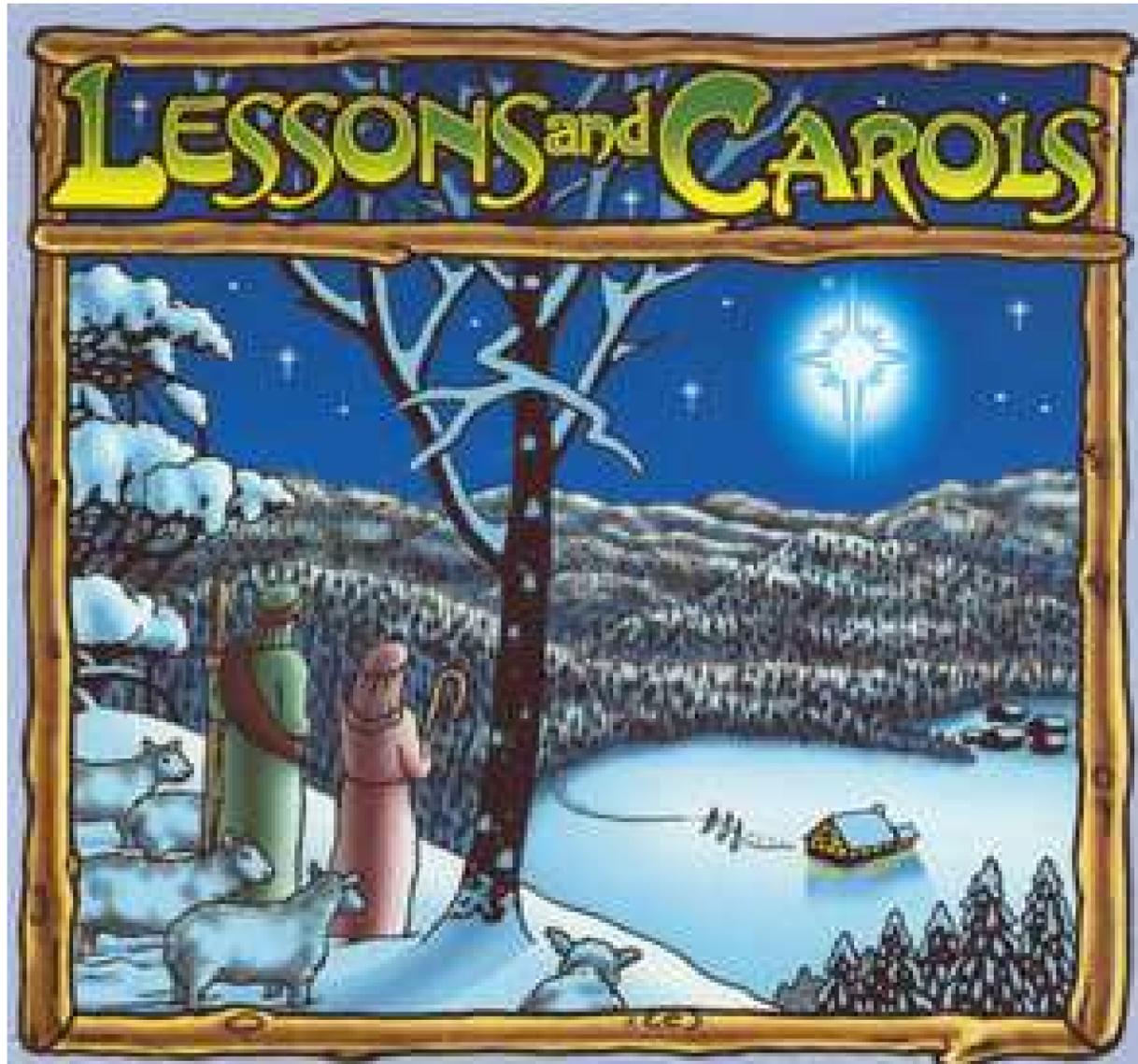
**2019 YOUTH SERVICE TRIP MEETING**

**Saturday, January 5th at 9:30 a.m. @ Salem  
 Planning Meeting**

*This is a Breakfast Meeting so please come hungry! We will  
 decide which camp to attend July 21st through July 27th.*

**"Mosquitoes and Miracles"**

Sunday, January 6th - 2:00 p.m. - Salem Sanctuary  
 Story teller Virginia Thomas  
**See Insert for more information.**



### INTRODUCTION

The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

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Salem Lutheran Church      401 S Lake St      Lake Mills IA 50450

### PRELUDE BELL ANOUNCEMENTS

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In ✝ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy! **Amen.**

#### GATHERING CAROL      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*      (congregation vs. 2-4)      ELW #275



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

#### GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *Angels We have Heard on High* (congregation vs. 2-3) **ELW #289**



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.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**PSALMODY**

*The psalm today is spoken responsively beginning with the lector*

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

**what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,**

All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

**whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Psalm 8**

*"For unto you is born a SAVIOR, who is Christ the Lord"*

**LESSON**

A reading from Isaiah

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**RESPONSE**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain)***

**ELW #283**

*The cantor will sing one time through in Latin. The Assembly is invited to sing the refrain the second time through in English.*

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**LESSON**

A reading from Matthew

**Matthew 1:18-21**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."



**CAROL** **Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming** (congregation vs. 2-4) **ELW #272**



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is **CHRIST**, the Lord”

**LESSON** **Isaiah 61:1-3, 11**

A reading from Isaiah

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.



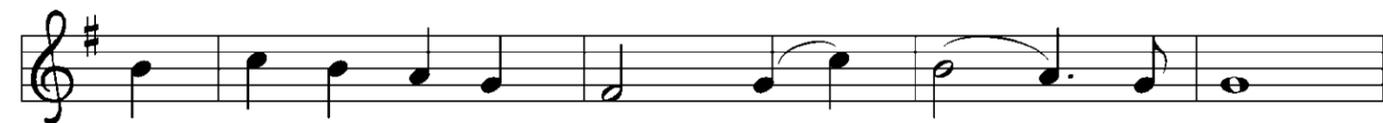
**RESPONSE** **O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain)** **ELW #283**

The cantor will sing one time through in Latin. The Assembly is invited to sing the refrain the second time through in English.

Refrain



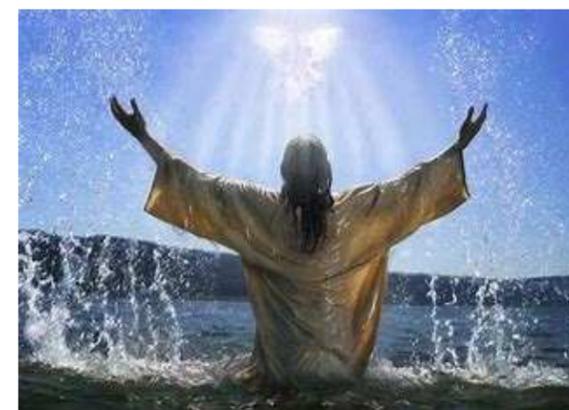
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**LESSON** **John 1:19-23, 29-34**

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup>And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."





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.

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the **Lord**”

**LESSON** *Isaiah 6:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

The cantor will sing one time through in Latin. The Assembly is invited to sing the refrain the second time through in English.

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**LESSON** *Luke 1:26-35*

A reading from Luke  
<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."



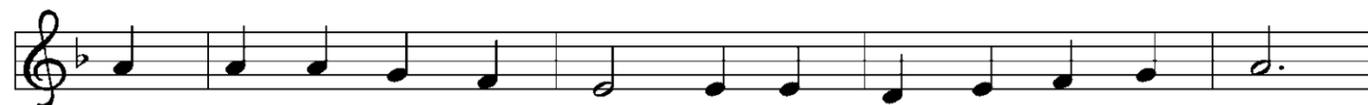
CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (congregation vs. 2-4) ELW #279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

*A brief silence.*

God of wisdom, open our ears to hear your grace through the words and deeds of children. Inspire the youngest and oldest in our midst to learn from one another with humility and patience. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of creation, praise to you for hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests, animals wild and tame, sea monsters, birds, and reptiles. Spark delight in our hearts for all that you have made. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, call us to peace and bind us together in perfect unity. Make wars to cease. Guide the leaders of the nations in your way of wisdom, compassion, and tolerance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, mend the broken hearts of those who suffer this day. Treasure everyone who struggles with addiction, loneliness, hunger, unemployment, mental illness, or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, draw us into the body of Christ and make us grow in faith and hope. Fill us with hearts of thanksgiving made visible in our words and actions for the sake of the whole world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of delight, fill us with songs of praise and hope even in the midst of despair and death. Comfort the grieving (*especially*). Strengthen our faith until the day we will be gathered around your throne singing in eternal praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**OFFERING CAROL****What Feast of Love**

(congregation vs. 2-3)

**ELW #487**

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!

**BLESSING**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.****SENDING CAROL****Go Tell It on the Mountain**

(congregation vs. 2-3)

**ELW #290***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**

Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Preaching:** Pastor Joel Guttormson Pastor  
**Organist:** Ruth Sheldon  
**Ushers:** Dolly Gregor & Margaret Okland  
**Acolytes:** Kelsey Kirschbaum, Elijah Menke

**Reader:** Ryan Knudtson  
**Cantor:** Jennifer Rice Hilton  
**Altar Guild for December 22-30:** Gloria Kvale, Pat Thorson

The radio broadcast this morning is given by the Haugen family. May the blessings of the seasons be with you.

**Readings for next week:** Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14,  
 Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30**

8:30 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary  
 9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 31**

8:00 a.m. Monday Morning Coffee – Lounge  
 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Clothes Closet Open  
 2:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 OFFICES CLOSED**

5:30 p.m. Casual Communion Service - Chapel

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 3**

9:30 a.m. Grace Circle – Library; Ruth Circle – Faye Aamodt  
 2:00 p.m. Martha Circle – Library

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 5**

9:30 a.m. Salem/One in Christ Youth Service Group Breakfast  
 – Fellowship Hall

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6**

8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Service  
 9:35 a.m. Praise Creature Choir– Choir Room; Faith  
 Formation – Chapel;  
 Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall  
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service – Sanctuary  
 2:00 p.m. “Mosquitoes and Miracles” – Sanctuary

**2019 YOUTH SERVICE TRIP MEETING**

**Saturday, January 5th at 9:30 a.m. @ Salem  
 Planning Meeting**

*This is a Breakfast Meeting so please come hungry! We will  
 decide which camp to attend July 21st through July 27th.*

**“Mosquitoes and Miracles”**

Sunday, January 6th - 2:00 p.m. - Salem Sanctuary  
 Story teller Virginia Thomas  
 See Insert for more information.