



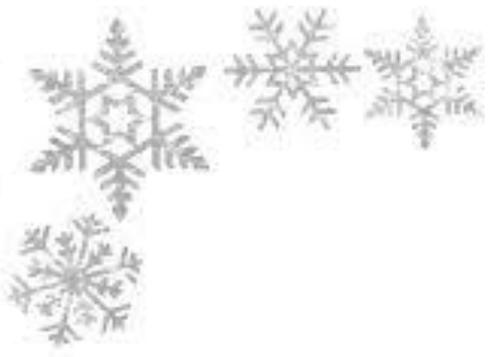
Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Sunday, December 29, 2019

First Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am

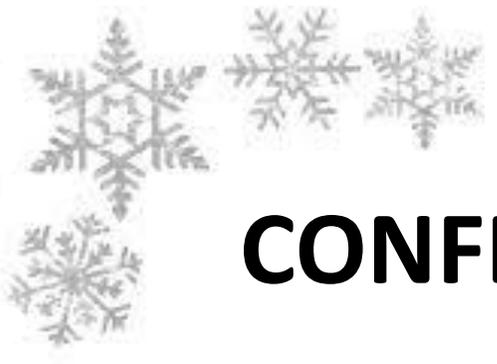


PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS





CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
love from the beginning, Word made
flesh, breath of heaven.

C: Amen.





P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love. *(A brief silence.)*

Merciful God,

C: we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God.



**Give us your righteousness, the strength
to put aside our failures, and the courage
to try again.
Amen.**



P:

Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of + Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

C: Amen.



OPENING SONG

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”



**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**



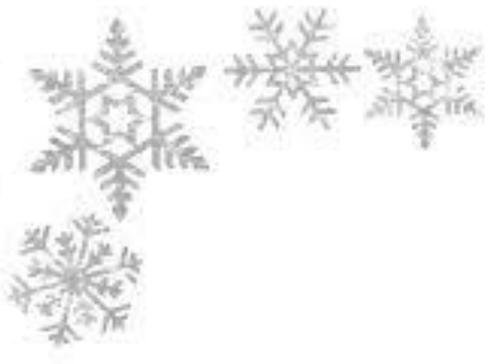
**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**



**Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

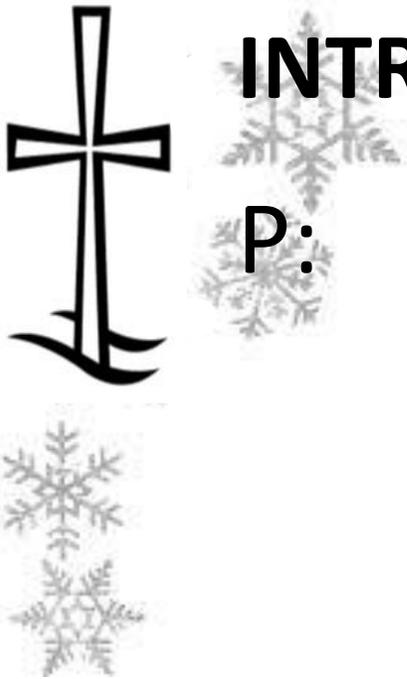


**All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**



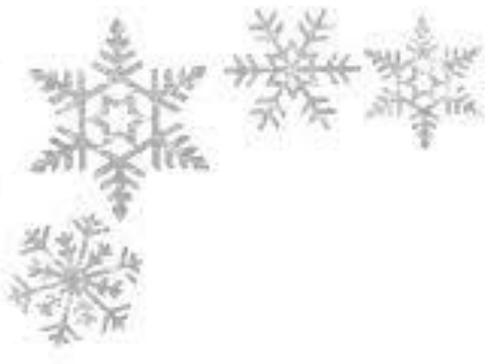
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly.



In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

C: Amen.

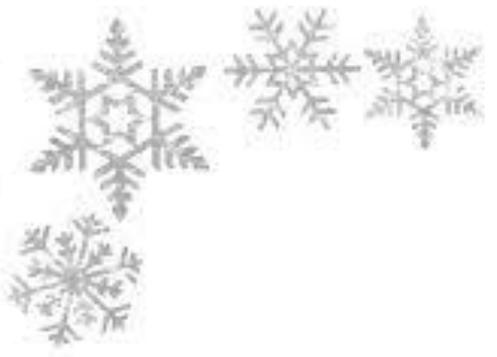


PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

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.**





CHILDREN'S CHURCH





FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

A reading from Isaiah, the 63rd chapter.

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.





For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.



R: Word of God, word of life.

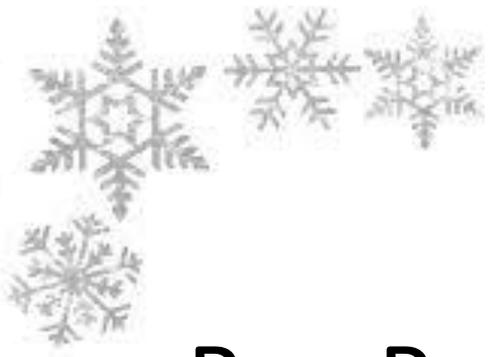
C: Thanks be to God.



A RESPONSIVE READING FROM PSALM 148

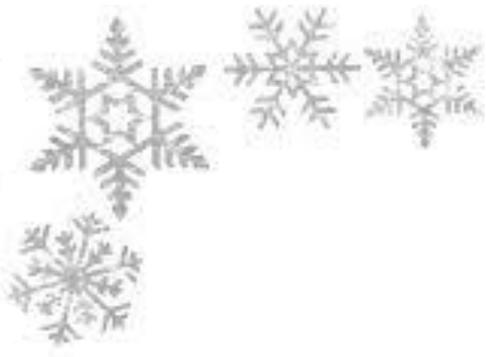
R: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

C: **Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

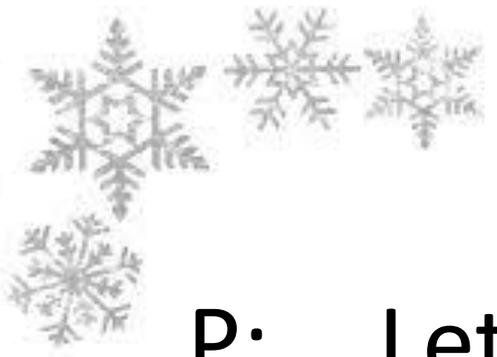


R: Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**C: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**



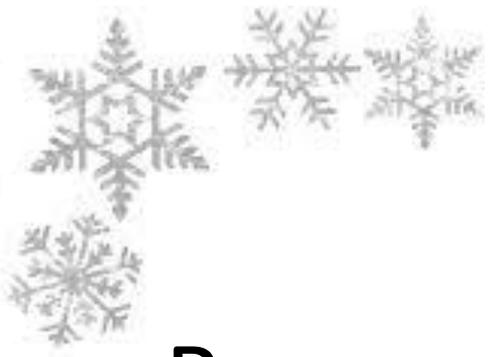
R: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
**C: who made them stand fast forever
and ever, giving them a law that
shall not pass away.**



P: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
**C: who made them stand fast forever and
ever, giving them a law that shall not
pass away.**

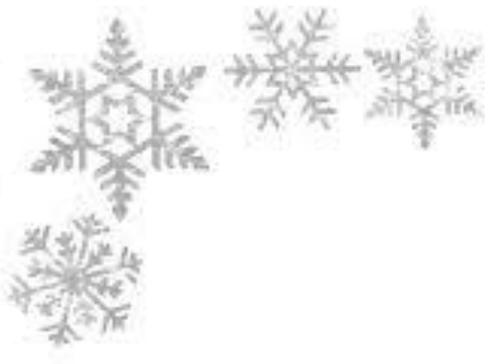


R: Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
**C: fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**



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

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



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

**C: young men and maidens,
old and young together.**



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

C: **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

A reading from Hebrews, the 2nd chapter.

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. 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, saying,





“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.” 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,



and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, 2nd chapter.

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

Now after the wise men 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.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

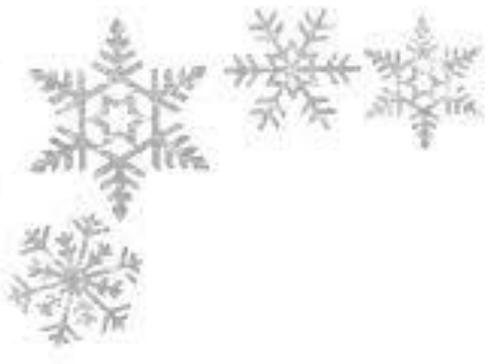
This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

“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.” When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “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.”

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over 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. 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 Nazorean.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON

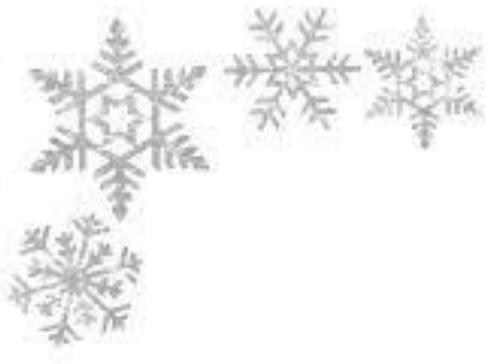
“Good News, Bad News, Faith News”



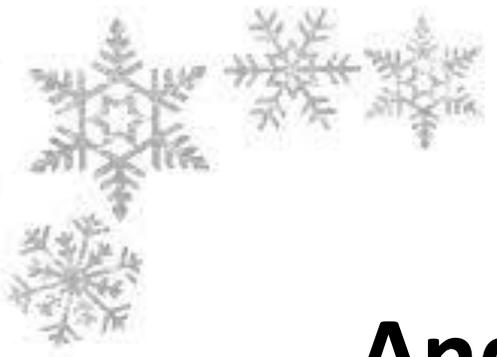
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Once in Royal David's City”

**Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.**



**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.**



**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**



**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**



THE APOSTLES' CREED

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;***



**he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**



***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

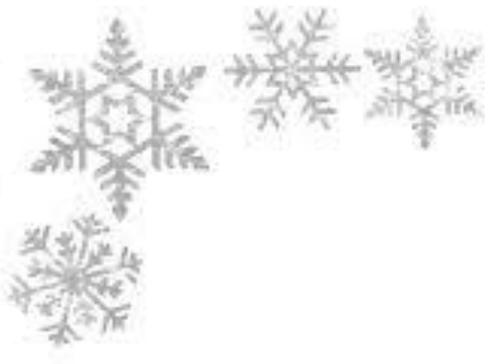
P: Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*) Praise is on our lips and in our hearts, Holy One, for the gracious deeds and acts that you have bestowed upon your church. Give to your whole church open hearts that we might work together to share your good news in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**



P: Praise to you, Creator of all, for you have created a rich diversity of nature and creatures: sun, moon, stars, mountains and all hills, oceans and rivers. Sustain all that you made and keep us faithful in our care for creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: We bless you, Ruler of all, for the communities and nations of which we are a part. Gather into your arms the many peoples of the world and grant humility to all leaders, so that all may find blessing and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: O Holy One, you overcame death and freed us from all fear. Give courage to all who are afraid and comfort to all who suffer in any way (*especially*).

Give patience and compassion to those who provide care. Hear us, O God.

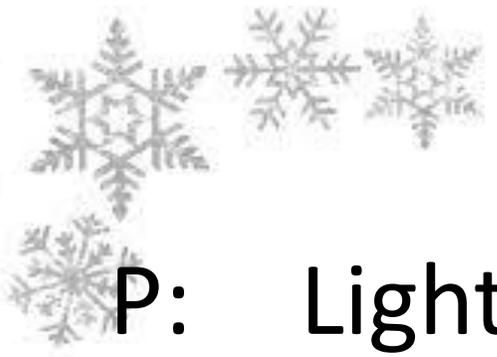
C: Your mercy is great.



P: Nurturing God, you care for your children in any danger. Grant courage to our congregation, that we are present with children who need our love and protection, with parents who grieve the loss of children, and with those who seek safety from hurtful situations.

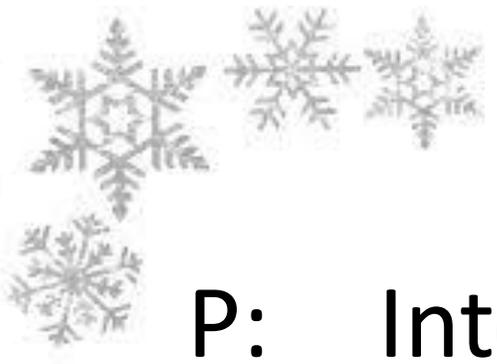
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



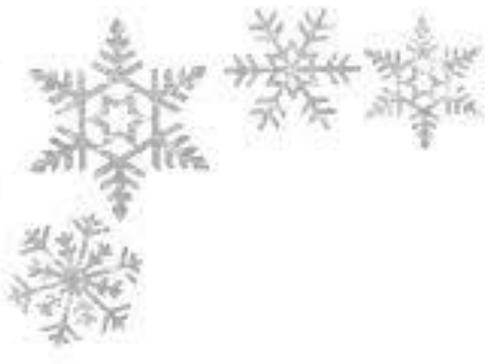
P: Light of life, you claim us as your children forever. We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, serving as witnesses to your presence (*especially*).
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

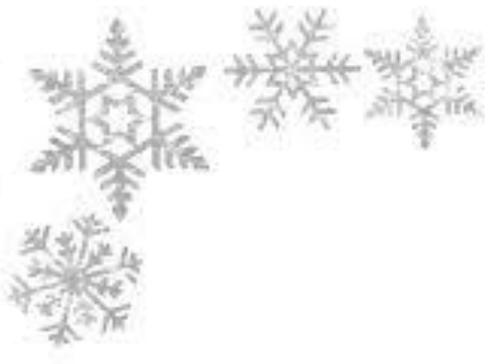
C: Amen.



PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**



~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“Come & See What’s Happening in the Barn”

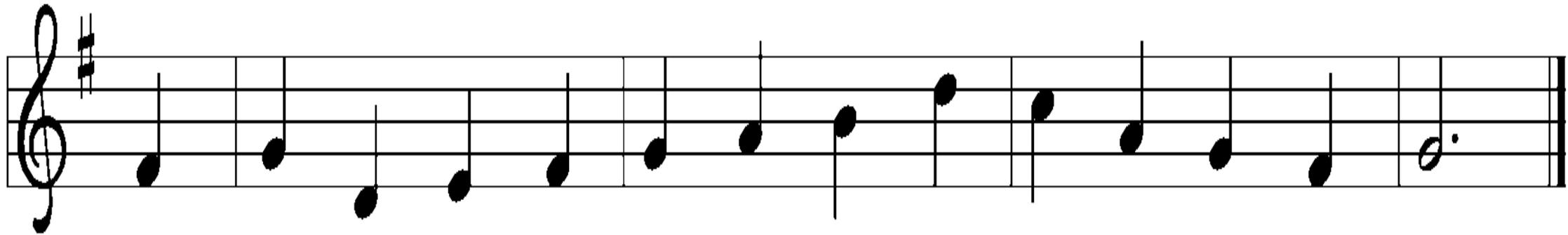
By the Gaither Vocal Band



OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.





OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.





DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.



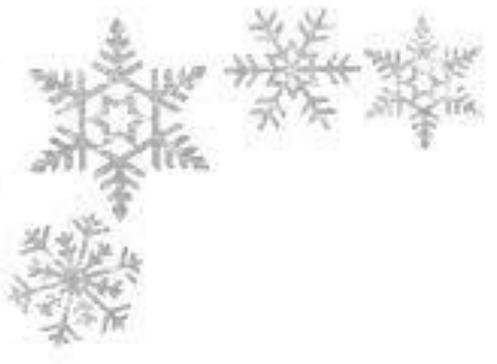
C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

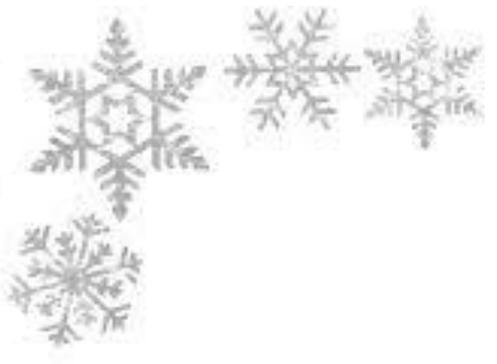


WORDS OF INSTITUTION



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.**



~ **COMMUNION** ~



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



P: Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

C: Amen.



BLESSING

P: Grace from God's own heart,
peace from the + Child in the manger,
and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings
for you today and always.

C: Amen.



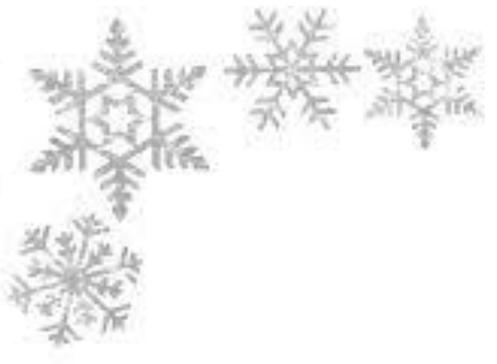
CLOSING HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High”



**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

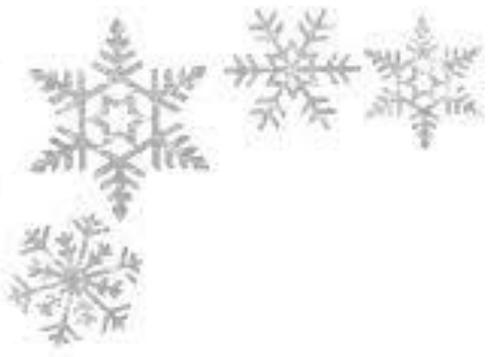
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.



**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?**

Refrain

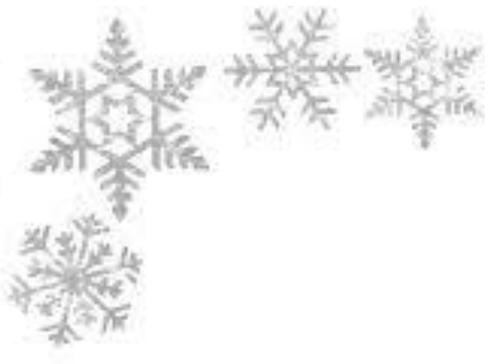
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.



**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.**

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.



DISMISSAL

P: Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain
and everywhere!

C: Thanks be to God.





May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you, 
and may you be blessed
each day!

Happy New Year 















