



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Sunday, December 31, 2017

First Sunday after Christmas ~ 9:30 am



PRELUDE



WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,
the Word made flesh, the Power of the
Most High, ✝ one God now and forever.

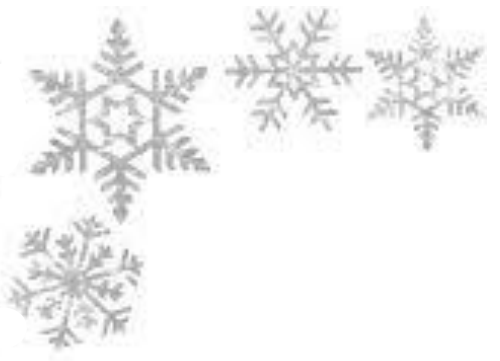
C: Amen.



P: Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor. *(A brief silence.)* Gracious God,

C: **In Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**






P: I bring you good news of great joy
for all the people. To you is born a Savior,
Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in
✝ Jesus' name.

C: Amen.



OPENING HYMN - “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*”



**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**



**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

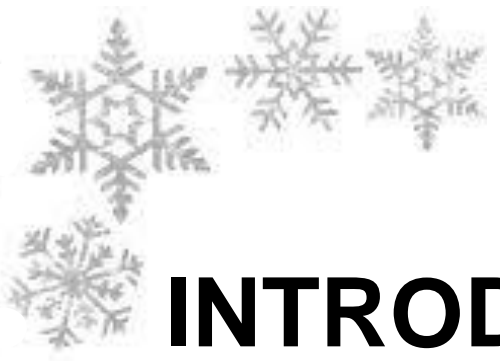


**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**



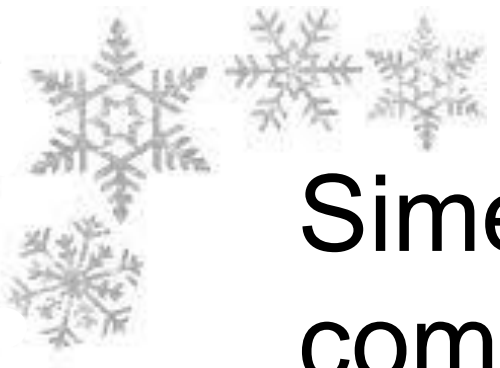
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus.



Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

C: Amen.

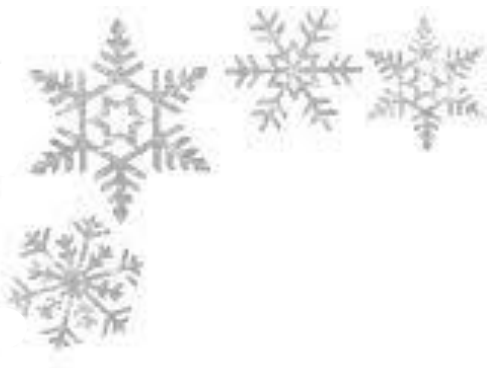


PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**





CHILDREN'S CHURCH



FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

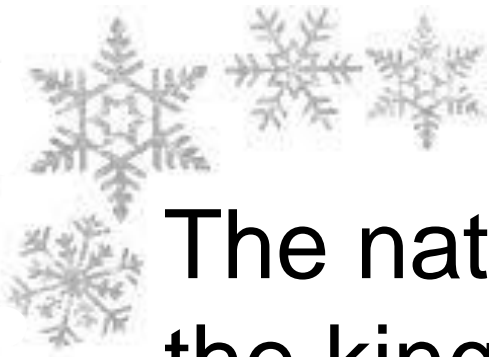
A reading from Isaiah, the 61st chapter.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.





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. For Zion's sake I will not keep
silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.



The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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.**

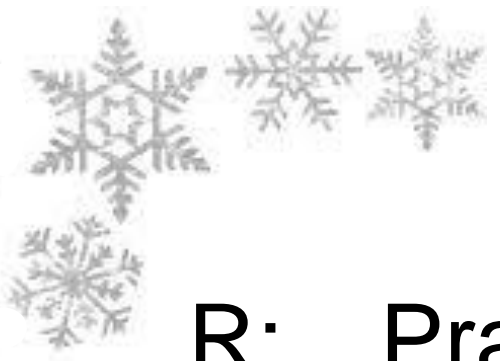


R: Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**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.**



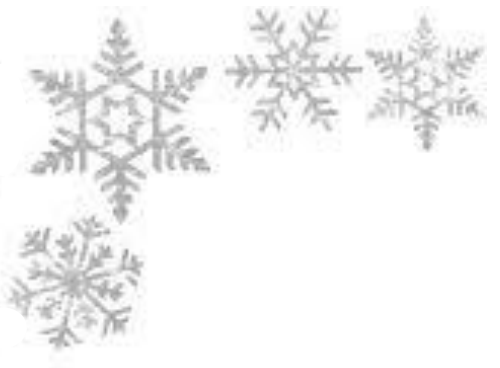
R: Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
**C: fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**



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

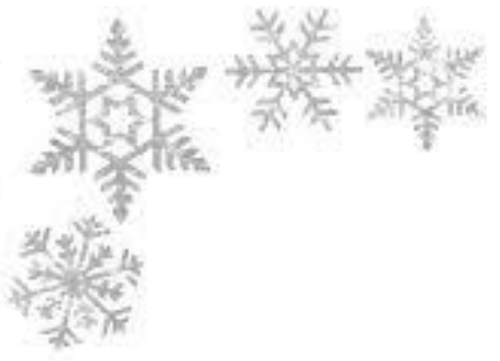
C: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;





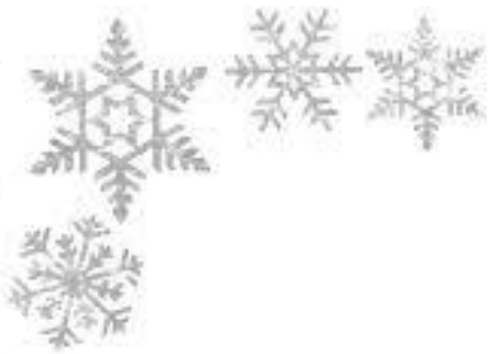
R: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**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: Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from Galatians, the 4th chapter.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.





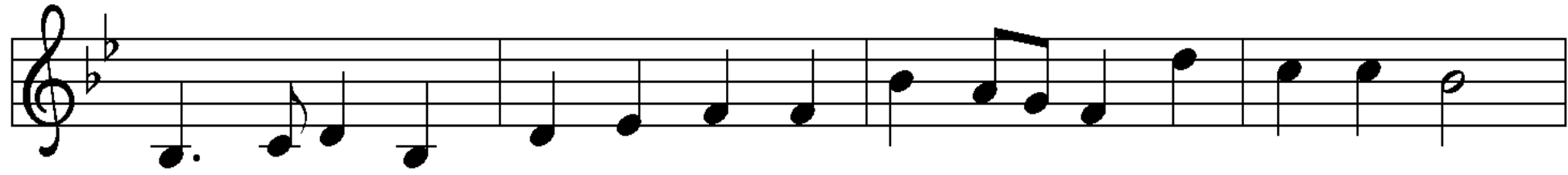
And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

R: Word of God, word of life.

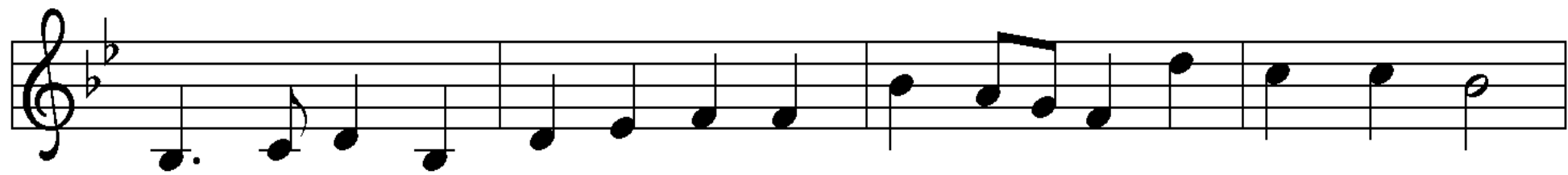
C: Thanks be to God.



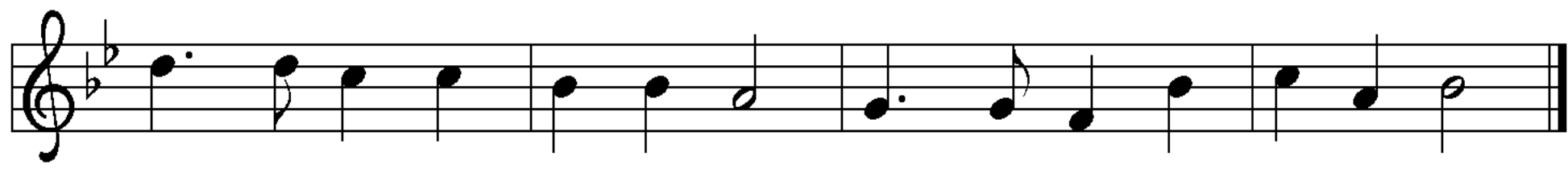
“ALLELUIA”



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.






GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.



When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”),



and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

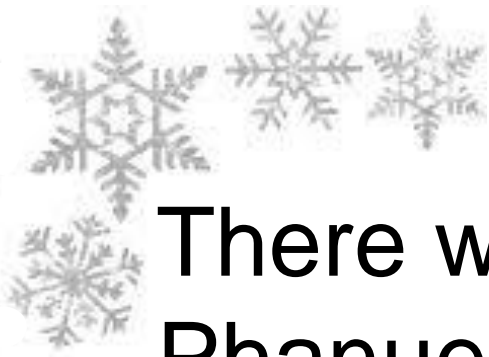


Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”





And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too."



There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.



When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON

“Looking Back to Look Forward”



HYMN OF THE DAY *“What Child Is This?”*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**



**Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?**

**Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!**







**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

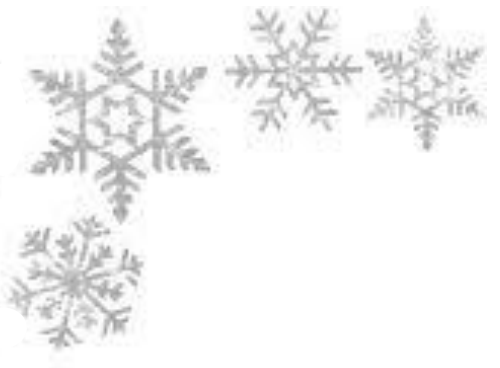


THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**



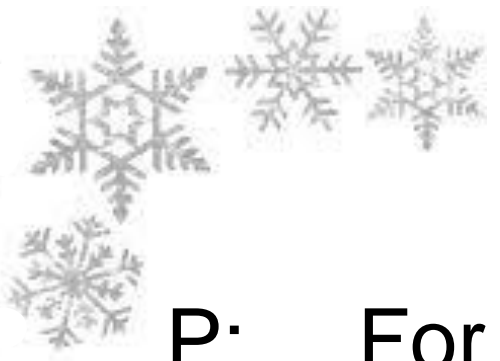
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Drawn near to God as children and heirs of Christ's promise, we pray for all people of God, for our nation and our world, and for those in need. (*A brief silence.*) For the faith communities of South Beloit and for faith communities throughout the world. Help us to see ourselves in our neighbors, especially those who differ from us, and draw us together in common service to those who are hungry, poor, and oppressed. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.



P: For the well-being of the earth as we begin another year entrusted with its care. Give us lively imaginations to see ways to conserve its limited resources, harness its renewable energies, and conform ourselves to its natural goodness. Lord, in your mercy,

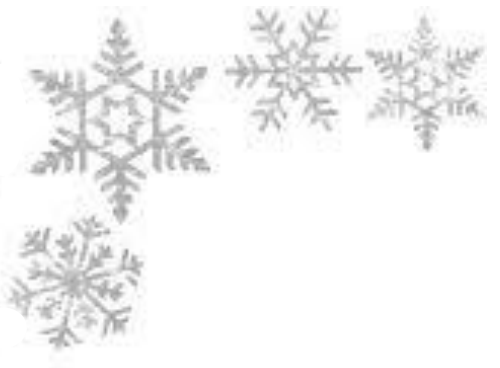
C: hear our prayer.



P: For peace among nations, for peace in our homes, and for peace in our hearts. Urge us to cry out at injustice and inequality among your people until vindication comes and righteousness prevails. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.



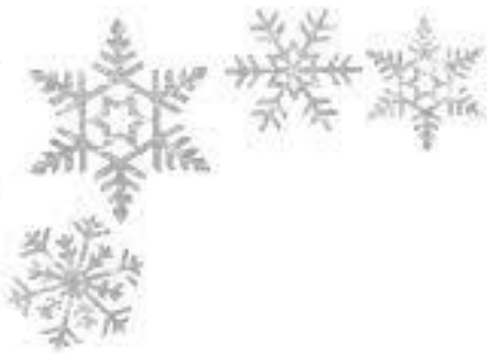


P: For those who wait in the shadow of death, for those who are ill, for those who struggle to see the future, and for all who lack even their basic needs. Transform our love toward them with the vision of eyes that have seen the salvation of God.
Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.



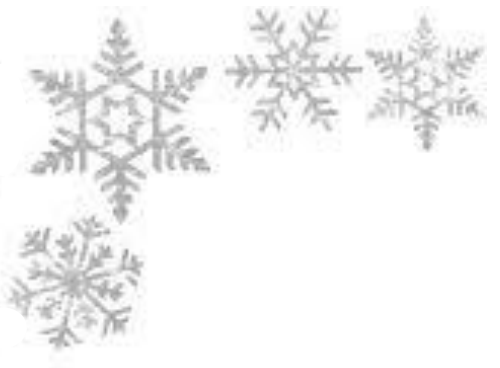
P: For those who cannot see, for those who cannot hear, for those who have varied use of their limbs, and for those able to exercise all the senses. Help us to appreciate the fullness of God's gift of life in our varied abilities, and to celebrate the diversity that reveals a more complete image of the one who makes us all family. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.



P: We give thanks for those who have gone before us in this year and now rest in you (*especially*). Led by Mary and Joseph, Anna and Simeon, let us live in your praise until the day we depart in your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.



P: Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

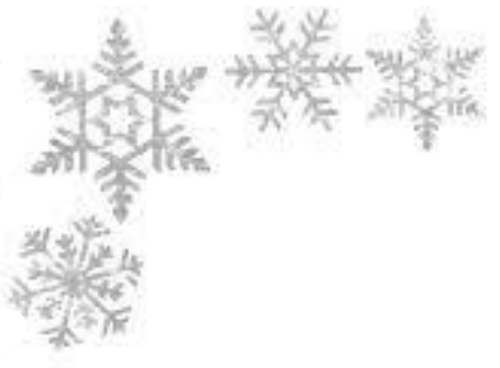
C: **Amen.**



PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

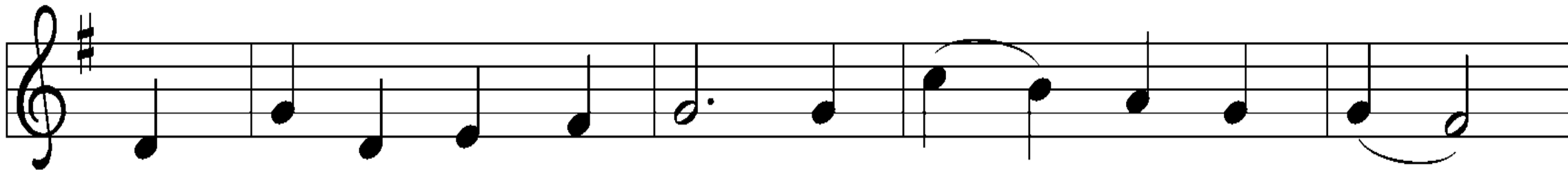


~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“Now That I've Held Him in My Arms”
by Michael Card



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.

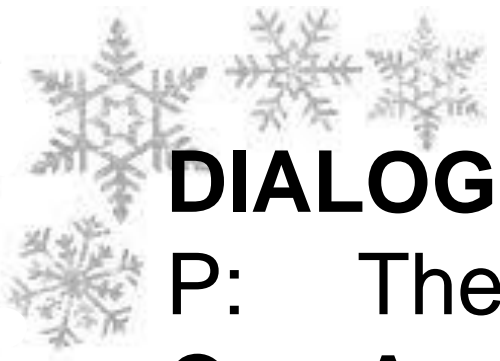


OFFERING PRAYER



P: 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.

C: Amen.



DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

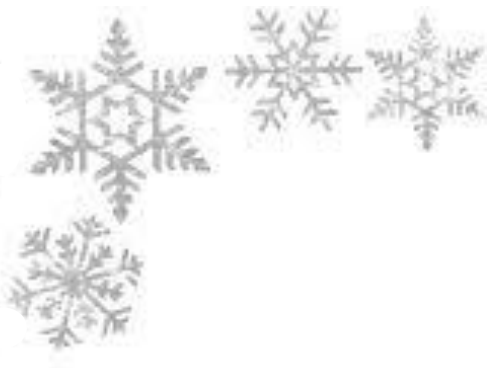
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let every heart receive your Savior.

C: Amen.

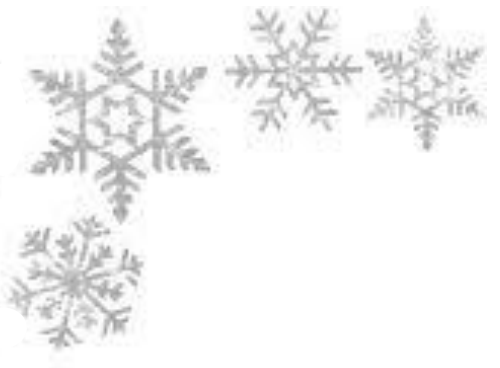


WORDS OF INSTITUTION



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.



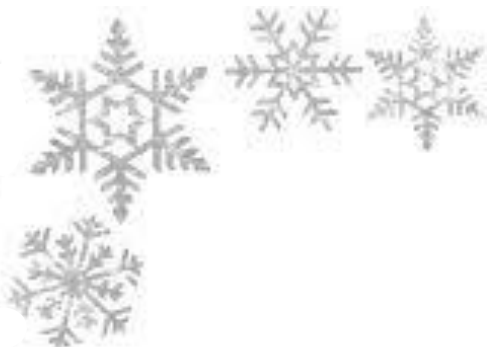
~ **COMMUNION** ~



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



BLESSING



P: May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always, Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

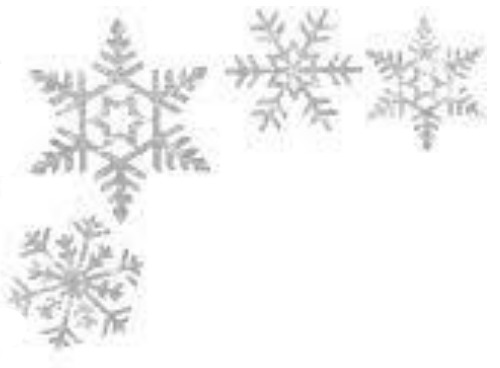
C: Amen.



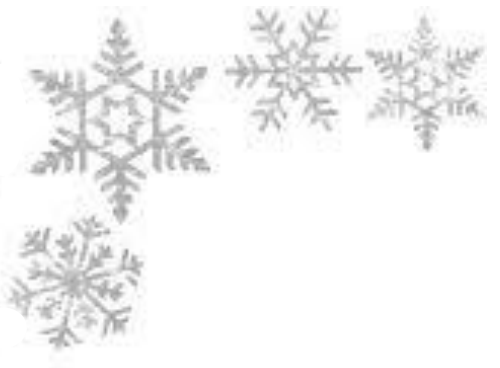
CLOSING HYMN “The Bells of Christmas”



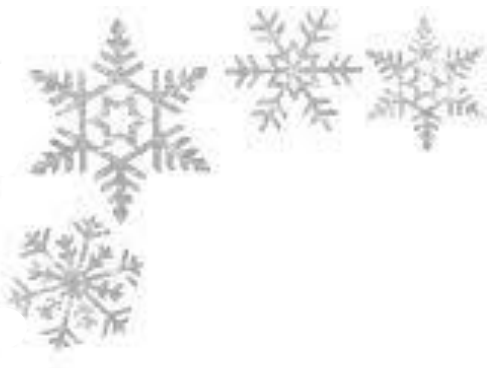
**The bells of Christmas chime once more;
the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
with new year gifts of peace, good will.**



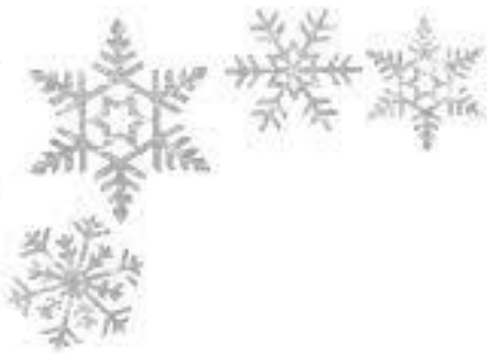
**This world, though wide and far outspread,
could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall,
no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.**



**Now let us go with quiet mind,
the swaddled babe with shepherds find,
to gaze on him who gladdens them,
the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.**



**Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
to keep our Christmas with our king,
until our song, from loving souls,
like rushing mighty water rolls!**



DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **Peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

