

**Luther Memorial Church & School**

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## As We Gather

Who is the Son of God? That first Christmas, the baby lying in the manger appeared to be the son of Mary and Joseph. Yet, this infant boy is so much more than meets the eye. He is the Son of God! How do we know? Just listen to God's Word in the proclamation of the angels: "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11). Or hear the words of John 1: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Through faith, you also are more than what meets the eye. You are a child of God! How do you know? God's Word connected to water declares it because you are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you look forward to your celebration of Christmas, celebrate that "when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5).

*[Today's hymns are printed on pages 8-11 of the bulletin.]*

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

TLH 136 – Angels from the Realms of Glory

#### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

#### Opening Sentences

Psalm 146:3-5

- P** Do not put your trust in princes,
- C** **Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.**
- P** His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;
- C** **In that very day his plans perish.**
- P** Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
- C** **Whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

#### Confession and Absolution

- P** "When we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world." (Galatians 4:3). Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Galatians 4:4–5). Because of the Savior who is the Word made flesh and who dwelt among us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Father in heaven, You sent forth Your Son to be born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us who were under the law. Grant that through faith we might rejoice in our baptismal adoption as Your children and our connection to Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Daniel 7:13-14

<sup>13</sup> “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 2

- P** Why do the nations rage,  
**C** **And the people plot a vain thing?**  
**P** The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together,  
**C** **Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,**  
**P** “Let us break Their bonds in pieces  
**C** **And cast away Their cords from us.”**  
**P** He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;  
**C** **The LORD shall hold them in derision.**  
**P** Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,  
**C** **And distress them in His deep displeasure:**  
**P** “Yet I have set My King  
**C** **On My holy hill of Zion.”**  
**P** “I will declare the decree:  
**C** **The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.**  
**P** Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance,  
**C** **And the ends of the earth for Your possession.**  
**P** You shall break them with a rod of iron;  
**C** **You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”**  
**P** Now therefore, be wise, O kings;  
**C** **Be instructed, you judges of the earth.**  
**P** Serve the LORD with fear,  
**C** **And rejoice with trembling.**  
**P** Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little.  
**C** **Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.**

## Epistle Reading

Galatians 4:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, <sup>2</sup> but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. <sup>3</sup> Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” <sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

## Alleluia

**P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are  
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the  
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

## Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation to the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

## Hymn

TLH 98 – Of the Father's Love Begotten

## Sermon Text

John 1:1-18

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup> That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the

world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ” <sup>16</sup> And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.



## This is My Son: Jesus

### Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O  
 God. Re - new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me  
 not a - way from Your pres-ence. Take not Your Ho - ly  
 Spir-it from me. Re - store to me the joy of Your sal-  
 va - tion. Up - hold me with Your free Spir - it.

## Hymn

TLH 646 – Silent Night! Holy Night!

## General Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

### Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn

TLH 558 – All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

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# TLH 136 – Angels from the Realms of Glory

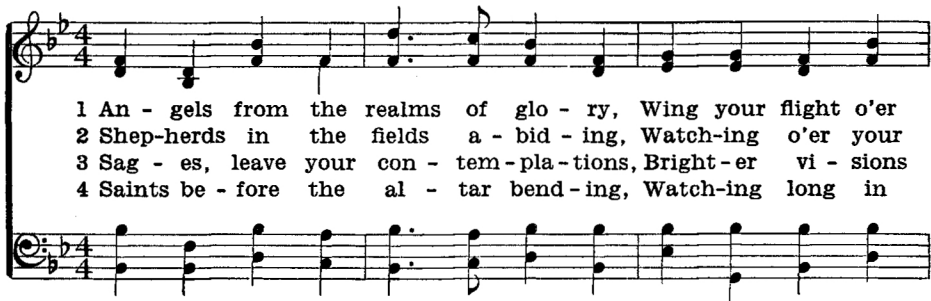
Matt. 2 : 2

James Montgomery, 1816, 1825, ab.

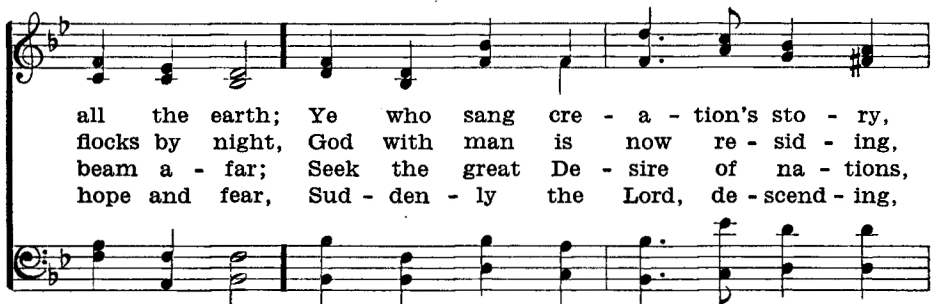
8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7.

Regent Square

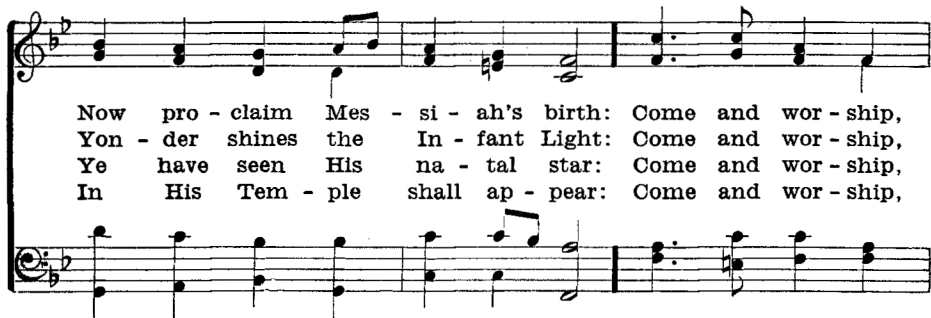
Henry Smart, 1867



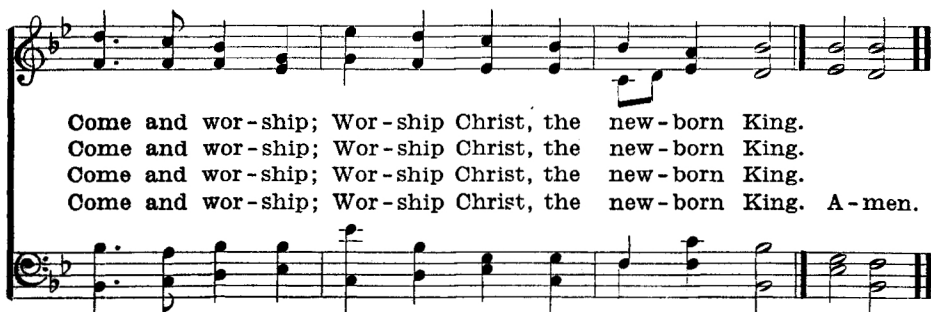
1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep-herds in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your  
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, Bright-er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, Watch-ing long in



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with man is now re - sid - ing,  
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light: Come and wor - ship,  
Ye have seen His na - tal star: Come and wor - ship,  
In His Tem - ple shall ap - pear: Come and wor - ship,



Come and wor - ship; Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.  
Come and wor - ship; Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.  
Come and wor - ship; Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.  
Come and wor - ship; Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King. A - men.



# TLH 98 – Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Tim. 3: 16  
 Corde natus ex Parentis  
 Aurelius Prudentius, 1413  
 Tr., John M. Neale, 1854, and  
 Henry W. Baker, 1861

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7. 7. 7.

Divinum mysterium  
 Plain-song tune, 12th century

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be - gan to be,  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed When the Vir - gin, full of grace,  
 3 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His prais - es sing;  
 4 This is He whom Heav'n - taught singers Sang of old with one ac - cord;

He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He,  
 By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bare the Sav - ior of our race,  
 Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him And ex - tol our God and King.  
 Whom the Scriptures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their faith - ful word.

Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 And the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 Now He shines, the Long - ex - pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

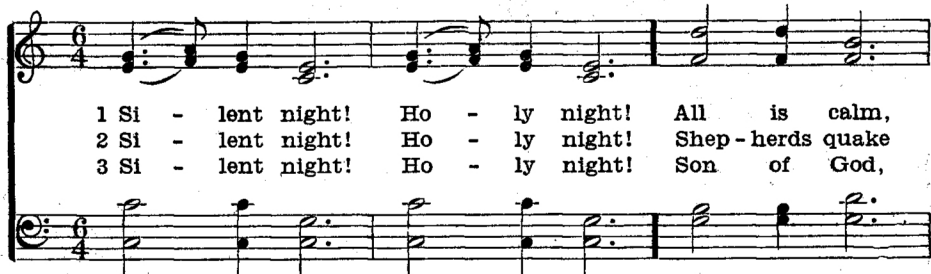
5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
 And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
 And unending praises be,  
 Honor, glory, and dominion,  
 And eternal victory  
 Evermore and evermore.

# TLH 646 – Silent Night! Holy Night!

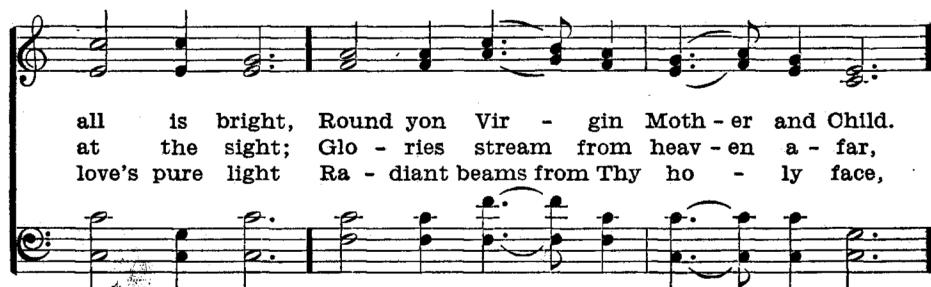
Luke 2 : 8  
Stille Nacht  
Joseph Mohr, 1818  
Tr., unknown

Irregular

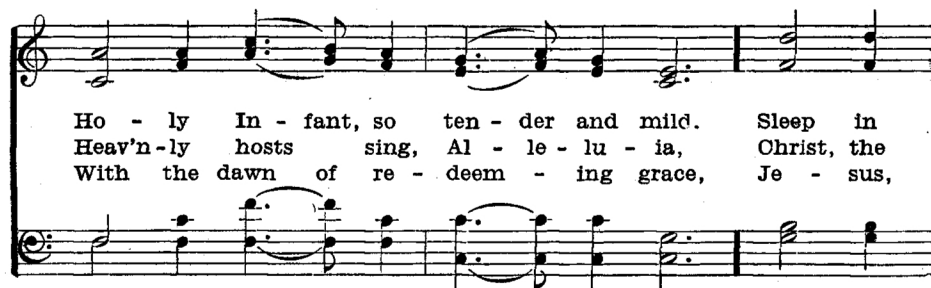
Stille Nacht  
Franz Gruber, 1818



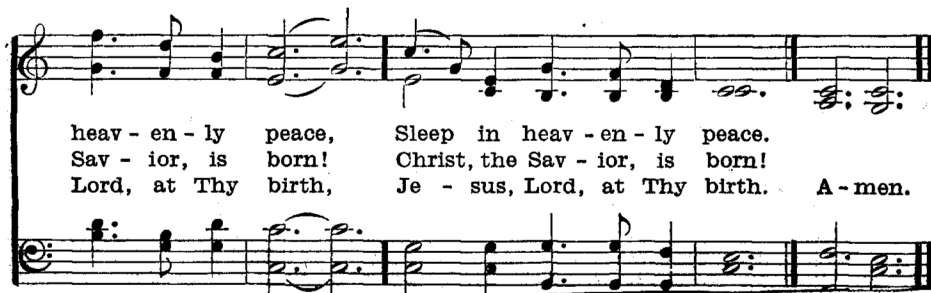
1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright, Round you Vir - gin Moth - er and Child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild. Sleep in  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia, Christ, the  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus,



heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth. A - men.

# TLH 558 – All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

Ps. 91: 4  
Thomas Ken, 1695, cento

L. M.  
(FIRST TUNE)

Tallis' Canon  
Thomas Tallis, c. 1567



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the bless-ings of the light.  
2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that I this day have done



Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings, Beneath Thine own al-might-y wings.  
That with the world, myself, and Thee I, ere I sleep, at peace may be. A-men.



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3 Teach me to live that I may dread<br>The grave as little as my bed.<br>Teach me to die that so I may<br>Rise glorious at the awe-full Day.               | 5 When in the night I sleepless lie,<br>My soul with heavenly thoughts supply;<br>Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,<br>No powers of darkness me molest.              |
| 4 Oh, may my soul on Thee repose,<br>And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,<br>Sleep that shall me more vigorous<br>make<br>To serve my God when I awake! | 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings<br>flow;<br>Praise Him, all creatures here below;<br>Praise him above, ye heavenly host:<br>Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. |



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