

CHRISTMAS DAY, 9:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

INTROIT & OPENING HYMN

“Glory to God”

-Giovanni Pergolesi

Arranged by Michael Burkhardt

Choir

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to his people on the earth.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, peace and goodwill to all.

And on earth peace to his people evermore. (Luke 2:14)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

CW 354

Congregation sings stanzas 1, 2, 4

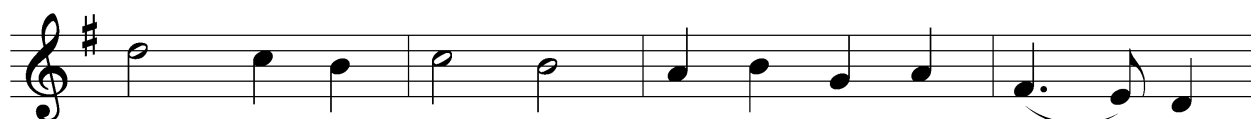
Choir sings stanza 3



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



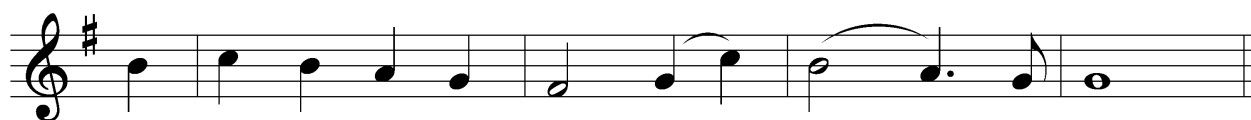
come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

STAND

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☐ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

C: Oh, come, let us adore Him.

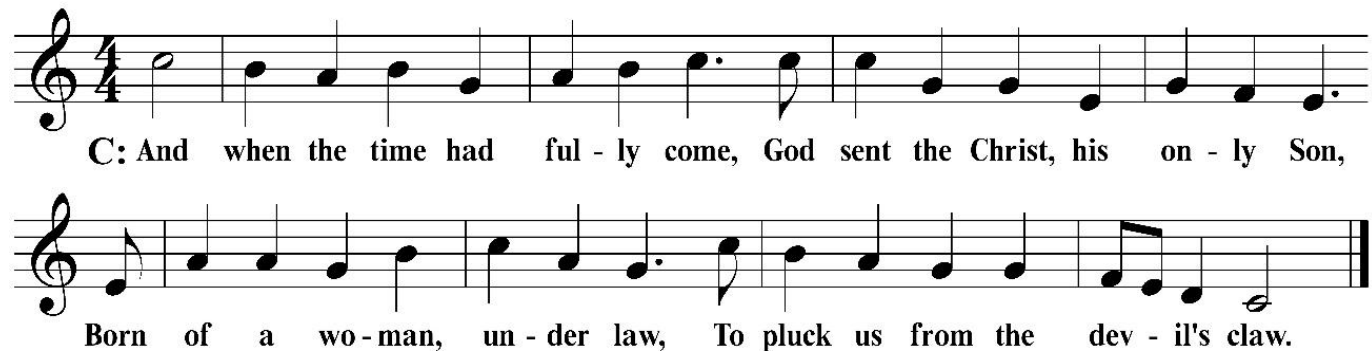
M: Unto you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

C: Oh, come, let us adore Him.

M: This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

C: Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY



C: And when the time had ful - ly come, God sent the Christ, his on - ly Son,
Born of a wo - man, un - der law, To pluck us from the dev - il's claw.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS AND ARE ASSURED OF HIS FORGIVENESS

M: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: there was a time when the world sat in darkness, separated from God because of sin. Since we human beings were unable to find God in that darkness, he came near to us as a baby, born of a virgin, bringing with him the great light of our salvation. I encourage you to come near to God, open your hearts to him, and confess to him your sins.

Silence for personal reflection and confession

M: Heavenly Father,

C: We confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and deeds. The world has tempted us in this Christmas season to put our delight and joy in material things, to be envious of others, and to center our celebrations around ourselves rather than on you. Thus we have sinned against you and against one another.

M: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Psalm 51:17)

C: The celebration you desire is the worship of the heart. Forgive our sins, O Lord, for the sake of the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, who died for us. Decorate our hearts with repentance and joy that our Christmas celebration may be pleasing to you.

M: This Child whose birth we celebrate came among us to live perfectly in our place, to give his life in payment for our sins, to rise from the grave for our justification, and to give us new life. In his name and at his command, I as a called servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☐ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

WE SING OUR PRAISE

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

“Christmas Gloria”

-Daniel W. Laginya

The congregation is invited to sing the “Gloria” refrain in harmony.

Choir

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

REFRAIN: Congregation

The musical score is written for a congregation in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o." The score is divided into three systems. The first system covers the first line of the refrain, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a congregation.

Choir

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

REFRAIN: *Congregation*

Choir

Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

REFRAIN: *Congregation*

Choir

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

REFRAIN: *Congregation*

A PRAYER BEFORE LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

M: Let us pray: Gracious God, we celebrate this day of our Lord's birth
as the fulfillment of your promise of redemption from sin.

C: We welcome you, Jesus, as the Savior of the world and the Lord of our hearts,

M: Who now lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

C: Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM GOD’S WORD

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”
⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.*

*Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;
Heavens star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing; Gloria
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing!*

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger.
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth beautiful the story.
Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory.
All hail the newborn King!*

STAND

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: Part Two of the Athanasian Creed

M: Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true faith.

C: Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

M: Now this is the true Christian faith:

C: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

M: He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father,
and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,
fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,

C: Equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;

M: And though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one,

C: One, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

M: One, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

**C: For just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,
so God and man are one in Christ.**

M: He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

**C: He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.**

M: At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies
to answer for their personal deeds.

**C: Those who have done good will enter eternal life,
but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.**

M: This is the true Christian faith.

C: Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved. Amen.

BE SEATED

Congregation and Choir:

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -

ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

The congregation is invited to sing stanza two in harmony, a cappella.

2. Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em - ploy, while

fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -

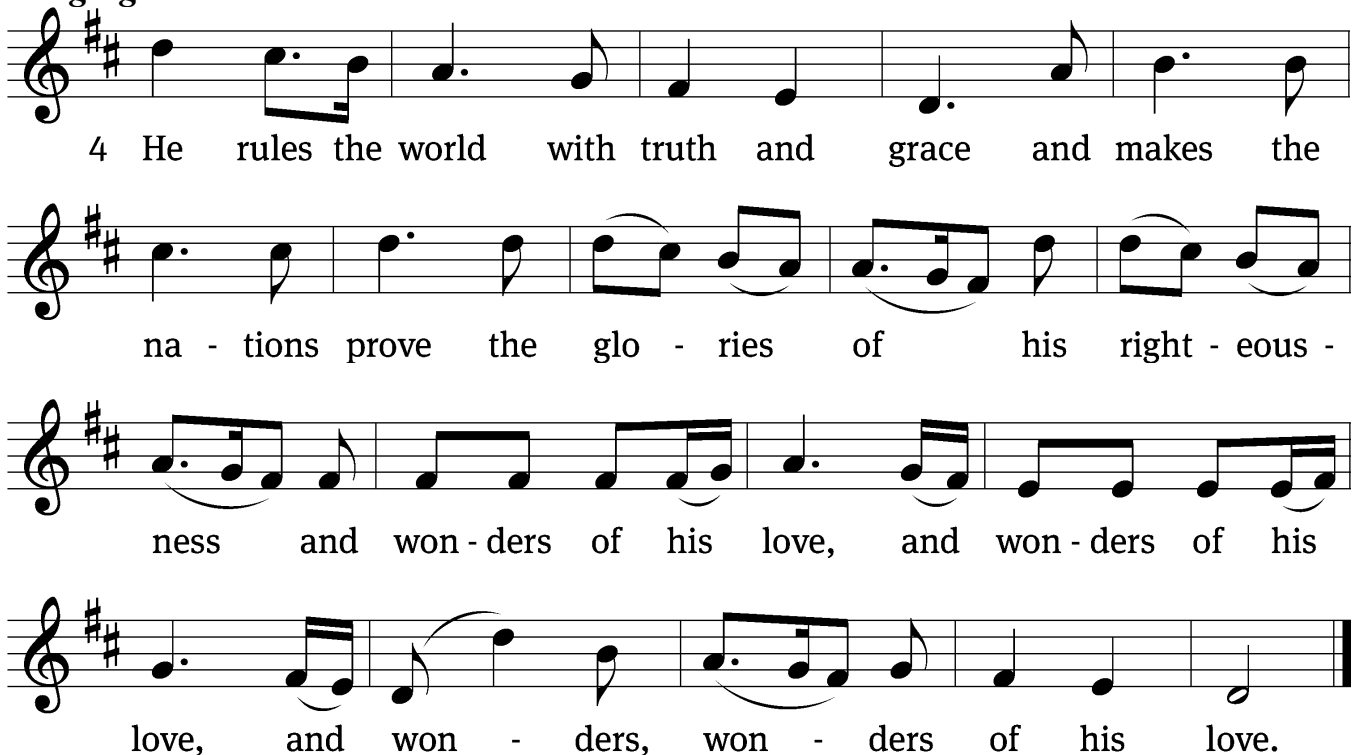
peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing joy, re -
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re -
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing

peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Choir

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

Congregation and Choir:



4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

THE WORD OF GOD THROUGH HIS APOSTLE

Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." ⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

OFFERING + *Visitors Please Note: Our offerings are an expression of our thanksgiving to God for all he's done for us and are given to support our ministry here at St. John's and around the world. Our guests need not feel any obligation to give.*

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: A Christmas Prayer

M: Lord Jesus, Miracle of Bethlehem's manger, with our whole hearts we praise and thank you today for coming to earth to be our Savior.

C: Praise and thanks be to you for Christmas, for the evidence of your love for us and for the comfort of your presence among us.

M: We praise you for fulfilling every ancient promise in the fullness of time and for the assurance that you will keep every promise you have made to us as well.

C: Help us to patiently trust in divine timing as we await your return in glory to take us to be with you in heaven.

M: Lord Jesus, be born in our hearts today, and fill us with joy and peace in obeying your commands and carrying out your mission.

C: We offer a place in our hearts and room in our lives for you and your Word, for your work and your praise.

M: Once again this Christmas we offer ourselves to you in gratefulness for humbling yourself, leaving your place in heaven to take our sin and trouble and suffer all the curse that our sin had brought upon us and all creation.

C: We adore you with angels and shepherds, with wise men and prophets, with saints and all creation.

M: Fix in our minds the truth that you are the only Hope of the human race, the only Savior of human souls, the only Redeemer from sin and hell.

C: Lead us to a deeper appreciation of your grace and increase our love for you and our desire to live to the honor of your name.

M: Now, O Lord, we pray for our family and friends, for our community and world, that everyone may hear the glad tidings of Christmas joy and come to and remain in the Christian faith:

We bring our private praise and petitions to Jesus in silent prayer.

M: Hear us, King of Kings, and grant our prayers your favorable answer, according to your promises and the power of your grace. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung to the tune of "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear")*



1. Our Fa - ther, Lord on heav'n's highthrone, Most ho - ly be__ your name.____
2. Yours is the king-dom; un - to you, In grate - ful love we bow;____



Your king - dom come, your will be done, On earth, in heav'n the same.____
And yours the pow'r, Lord, let us view Your might - y pre - sence now.____



Give us this day the food we need; For - giv - en may we be;____
The glo - ry yours; your praise be sung, Through - out the world a - gain____



In - to temp-ta - tion do not lead; From e - vil set__ us free.____
In ev' - ry land, by ev' - ry tongue, For - ev - er - more! A - men.____

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you..

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PROPER PREFACE

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for in mercy you have given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. We bless you for his birth among us and thank you for your measureless grace. Grant us your Spirit that we may cling to your Son in true faith, receiving here his body and blood for our forgiveness, the same body born of Mary, the same blood poured out for us on the cross.

C: Amen.

SANCTUS HYMN

JEG ER SAA GLAD



1. O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might, — Your
2. Ho - san - na! Come and save — us, Lord God of hosts on high, — And
3. Ho - san - na in — the high - est! How tru - ly blest is he — Who
4. He comes to bring sal - va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -



glo - ry, earth — and heav - en In count - less ways re - cite. —
in your grace — and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry. —
in God's name — is com - ing To set his peo - ple free! —
liv - er us — from bond - age, Ho - san - na, might - y Lord! —

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN

MANGER SONG



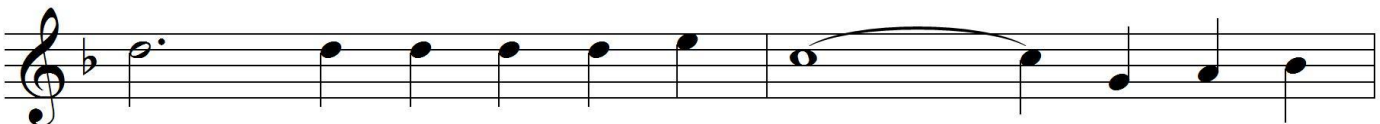
We pray: O Lamb of God take all our sins a - way.

Our faith in -



crease. Have mer - cy on us all this day.

And strength - en



us at times when we do fall. — Please hear our



fer - vant call and grant us peace.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"O Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly"

CW 366



1 O re - joice, all Chris - tians, loud - ly, for our joy has
 2 See, my soul, your Sav - ior choos - es pov - er - ty and
 3 Lord, how shall I thank you right - ly? I am saved e -
 4 Je - sus, guard and guide your mem - bers, fill them with your



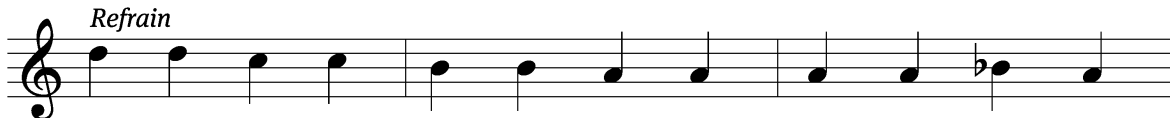
now be - gun; won - drous things our God has done.
 weak - ness, too; in such love he comes to you.
 ter - nal - ly by your life and death for me.
 bound - less grace, hear their prayers in ev - 'ry place.



Tell a - broad his good - ness proud - ly, who our race has
 Nei - ther crib nor cross re - fus - es, all he suf - fers
 Let me not for - get it light - ly, but with all my
 Fan to life faith's glow - ing em - bers; grant all Chris - tians



hon - ored thus, that he has be - friend - ed us.
 for your good to re - deem you by his blood.
 heart be - lieve that from you I shall re - ceive
 far and near ho - ly peace, a glad new year.



Joy, O joy, be - yond all glad - ness! Christ has done a -



way with sad - ness! Hence, all sor - row and re - pin - ing,



for the Sun of grace is shin - ing!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

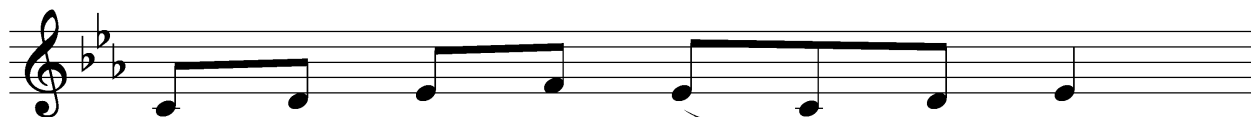
CW 358



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
 and ex - tol our God and King.
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 Now he shines, the long - ex - spect - ed;
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

STAND

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have poured out upon us your never-ending love by sending your Son Jesus Christ to this earth to be born of a virgin for us as our Savior, our Lord, and our Brother. Through this Sacrament sustain us and so strengthen us that we may continue to proclaim him who gives life to the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: May he, who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

And the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, the Son ☐ and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.



PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

"Now Sing We Now Rejoice"

CW 363



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
 3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
 Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty
 where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
 thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee!	Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there!	May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

PREACHER

Pastor Rob Guenther

ORGANIST

Becky Berg

VIOLIN

Sebastian Smith and Ella Wurster

CELLO

Isaiah Smith

TRUMPET

Dan Borgwardt, Josiah and Nathanael Smith

PIANO

Laura Balza and Becky Berg

Christmas Gloria #08781 Music - ©1986, 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Contributors: Daniel Laginya

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child – arrangement #93480 Music - ©2003 Hope Publishing Company Contributors: Joel Raney

Glory to God #50-1450 Words and Music - ©1990 MorningStar Music Publishers / Birnamwood Publications Contributors: Pergolesi; arr. Michael Burkhardt

Flowers Given in Memory by:

Larry Helen Black in memory of Grace Ann Black

Jamie Milbrett in memory of Jean Milbrett

Jane Spoon in memory of Richard Spoon

Jim and Cindy Dretske in memory of Ted and Agnes Fluegge & Bob and Lou Dretske

Ann C Vogel in memory All St. John's members departed in 2025

Dave and Sue Paulson in memory of Rachel Paulson

Delilah Brandes in memory of Carter Brandes

Kim Hanan in memory of Norman Hanan

The Goeglein Family in memory of Karen Goeglein & Judy Lecher

Bob Johnson in memory of Jean Johnson

Karla Havemeier in memory of Jack Havemeier

Keith and Elizabeth Wessel in memory of Our Daughter Constance Elizabeth Wessel

Alan and Jennifer Uher in memory of Rev. and Ruth Eggert & Otto and Alda Uher

Merry Christmas