



**MIDWEEK ADVENT 2**

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**



## ***BIBLE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS***

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### **SERIES EXPLANATION**

People love Christmas music! It seems to be played earlier and earlier every year. There are many popular tunes, and some songs even have words that point us to the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Did you know that the Bible has songs of Christmas? They were sung to announce Christ's birth. We have only the words of those songs, not the music, but Christian composers through the ages have set those words to music. This year we look at the background and words of those songs to help us prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Our worship follows this pattern.

Midweek One	<i>The Song of Mary</i>
Midweek Two	<i>The Song of Zechariah</i>
Midweek Three	<i>The Song of the Angels</i>

# 330 Peace Came to Earth

CW 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels  
 2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held the in - fant  
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and  
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied  
 in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and  
 blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you  
 I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u - el!  
 side, all doubts dis-pelled— Who could but sigh: Im-man-u - el!  
 vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u - el!  
 brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

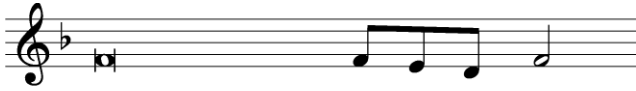
Tune: Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952; arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.

Text: © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

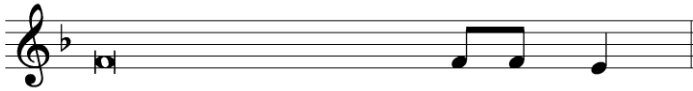
Tune: © 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

*Please stand, if you are able*

## Opening Sentences



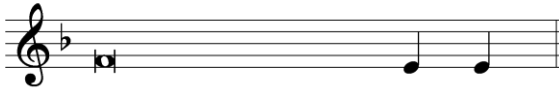
Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



**the light no darkness can o - ver - come.**



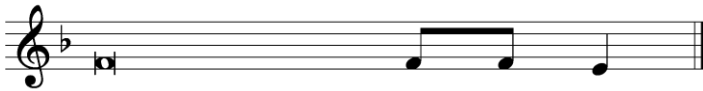
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



**and the day is almost o - ver.**



Be our light and scat - ter the darkness,



**and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## 141A Let My Prayer Rise before You

Psalm 141A

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O LORD, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.  
O LORD, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice  
when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Tune: David Schack

Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

Tune: Public domain

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Scripture Reading

## Psalms 36

<sup>1</sup>There is no dread of God before his eyes,  
<sup>2</sup>because he flatters himself in his own eyes  
too much to notice his guilt and to hate it.  
<sup>3</sup>The words from his mouth are deception and deceit.  
He has given up being wise and doing good.  
<sup>4</sup>He plots deception even on his bed.  
He sets out on a path that is not good.  
He does not reject wrong.  
<sup>5</sup>LORD, your mercy reaches to the heavens.  
Your faithfulness to the skies.  
<sup>6</sup>Your righteousness is as high as the mountains of God.  
Your justice is as deep as the ocean.  
You save both man and animal, O LORD.  
<sup>7</sup>How precious is your mercy, O God!  
So all people<sup>[b]</sup> find refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
<sup>8</sup>They are satisfied by the rich food of your house.  
You let them drink from your river of delights.  
<sup>9</sup>For with you is the fountain of life.  
In your light we see light.  
<sup>10</sup>Stretch out your mercy over those who know you,  
your righteousness to the upright in heart.  
<sup>11</sup>Do not let the foot of the proud trample me.  
Do not let the hand of the wicked drive me away.  
<sup>12</sup>There the evildoers have fallen.  
They have been thrown down.  
They are not able to rise!

## PRAYER

Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please stand, if you are able*

## Scripture Reading

## Luke 1:57-79

<sup>57</sup> When the time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they were rejoicing with her. <sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. They wanted to call him Zechariah after the name of the father. <sup>60</sup> But his mother answered, “No. He will be called John.”

<sup>61</sup> They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” <sup>62</sup> They made signs to his father, to see what he wanted to name him.

<sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they were all amazed.

<sup>64</sup> Immediately Zechariah’s mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> Fear came on all who lived around them. In the entire hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup> And everyone who heard this took it to heart, saying, “What then will this child be?” Clearly, the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people.  
<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup> just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets.  
<sup>71</sup> He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,  
<sup>72</sup> in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> the oath which he swore to Abraham our father,  
<sup>74</sup> to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies,  
so that we are able to serve him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,  
because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup> because of God’s tender mercies,  
by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us,  
<sup>79</sup> to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Please be seated*

# 312 Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 312



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so  
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each  
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert  
 4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing  
 dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no  
 far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;  
 king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their  
 now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys  
 now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain



## Sermon

### *“Praise the Lord with Zechariah”*

*1. He remembered his promise*

*2. He rescued his people*

*Please stand, if you are able*

### **Song of Zechariah**



1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in  
2 Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues  
3 In ten - der mer - cy God will send the Day - spring

love and pow'r, who rais - es from the roy - al house de -  
us from fear, that we might serve in ho - li - ness and  
from on high, our ris - ing sun, the light of life for

liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets  
peace from year to year; and you, my child, shall  
those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our

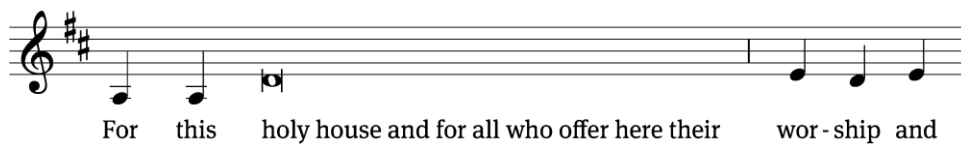
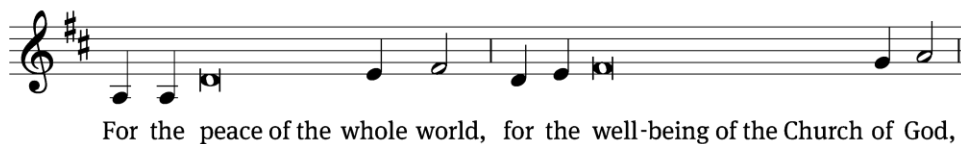
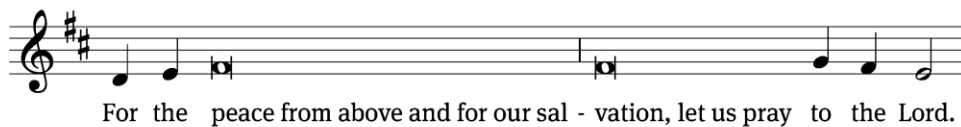
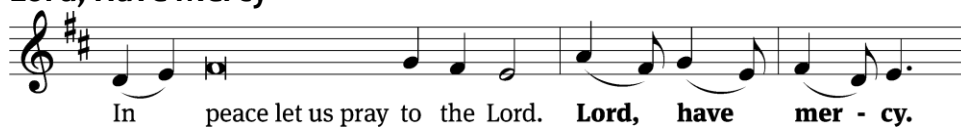
God has sworn to free us from a - larm, to save us  
go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy, that all may  
way to peace that death shall reign no more. Sing prais - es

from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.  
know the ten - der love, the grace of God Most High.  
to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Tune: Marty Haugen

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## Lord, Have Mercy





Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

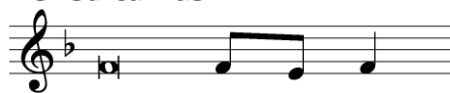
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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.**

## Benedicamus



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

## Blessing



The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



A - men.

*Please be seated*

# 336 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

CW 336



1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all  
 2 "Fear not," said he for might - y dread had  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is  
 4 "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, an an - gel of the  
 seized their trou - bled mind; "glad ti - dings of great  
 born of Da - vid's line a Sav - ior, who is  
 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 joy I bring to you and all man - kind.  
 Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
 swad - dling clothes and in a man - ger laid."

5 Then suddenly in heav'n's bright sky  
 appeared a shining throng  
 of angels praising God, who thus  
 addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high,  
 and to the earth be peace;  
 to those on whom his favor rests  
 goodwill shall never cease."

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715, alt.

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, London, 1592; attr. George Kirbye, c. 1560–1634

Text and tune: Public domain

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**POINSETTIAS** this week are given by Paul Marion and family in loving memory of Herman, Doris, Connie, and Matthew Marion; by Norine Love and family in loving memory of Thomas Love; and by Bill and Jennifer Barnett in honor of Michael's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on Christmas Day and Brooks' 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. Thank you all!

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH THE CHOIR**—The choir would like to invite you to join us for caroling on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at church at 5:00 p.m. for a quick chili supper and then head to our first stop. If you can't make it in time for supper you can meet us at Linden Square at 5:45 p.m. If you would like to attend, please let Sarah Hanke know (517-442-9275) so that we can plan for supper and carpooling. Hope to see many people join us!

**FAVORITE HYMN SUNDAY**—is coming up on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. There are forms at all entrances for you to fill out with your top three favorite hymns. Turn them in to the box in the Bible Class room by Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES—**

Sunday Worship—Sundays, December 14, 21, 28 9:00 a.m.

Mid-week Advent Worship—Wednesday, December 17 at 7 p.m.

Children's Program—Sunday, December 21 at 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship—Wednesday, December 24 at 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship—Thursday, December 25 at 10 a.m.



**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Officiant**..... Pastor Jon Baumann  
**Organist** ..... Marcia Marion Ackling  
**Deacons**..... Jeff Neuburger and Robert Niethammer  
**Altar Guild** ..... Sharon Boswell and Judy Lindemann  
**Videographer** ..... Cindy Dresch

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