



MIDWEEK ADVENT 3

Wednesday, December 17, 2025



BIBLE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

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>

352 Joy Has Dawned

CW 352



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
 2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels
 3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.
 4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
 as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
 Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:
 rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
 Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
 gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;
 What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
 cling now to a moth - er's breast, _ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
 myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
 Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, _ now the Lord of his - t'ry.

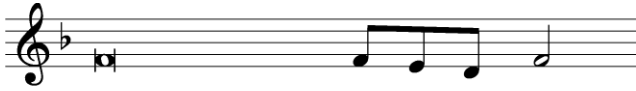
Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

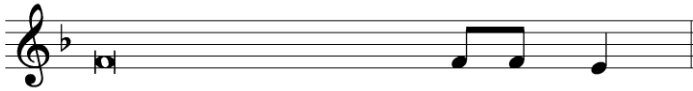
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Please stand, if you are able

Opening Sentences



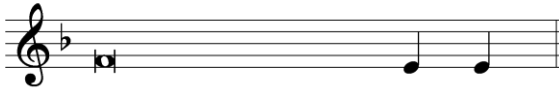
Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



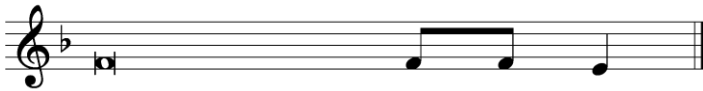
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



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

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

Psalm 57

¹Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, because my soul has taken refuge in you. In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge until destruction has passed by.

²I call to God Most High, to God, who completes his plans for me.

³He will send from heaven, and he will save me. He puts to shame the one who pants as he pursues me. God will send his mercy and his faithfulness.

⁴ My life is spent among lions. I lie down among ferocious men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongue is a sharp sword.

⁵ Be exalted above the heavens, O God. May your glory be over all the earth.

⁶ They spread a net for my steps. My soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in front of me. They have fallen into it.

⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God. My heart is steadfast. I will sing and I will make music.

⁸ Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

⁹ I will give thanks to you among the peoples, O Lord. I will make music to you among the nations,

¹⁰ because your great mercy reaches above the heavens, and your faithfulness to the skies.

¹¹ Be exalted above the heavens, O God. Let your glory be over all the earth.

Bell Choir

“Hark! The Glad Sound”

Arrang. by Susan E. Geschke

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.

Piano Duet

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Please stand, if you are able

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-14

⁸ There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹ Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

356 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

CW 356



- 1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
- 2 From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
- 3 "Fear not," then said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
- 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ, our Sav - ior, was born on Christ - mas Day
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same,
this day is born a Sav - ior, the true and ra - diant light,
and in true love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas is filled with heav'n - ly grace.



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

Text: English, 18th cent.
Tune: English
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

"Join the Glorious Song of the Angels"

1. *Its praises ascend to heaven*
2. *It announces heaven-sent peace*

Please stand, if you are able

935 All Glory Be to God on High



- 1 All glo - ry be to God on high and thanks for all his
- 2 We praise and laud and wor - ship you; we give you thanks for -
- 3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son, be - got - ten of the
- 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, our de - light and source of con - so -



fa - vor; no harm can touch or ter - ri - fy a child of
ev - er, O Fa - ther, for your rule is true and just and
Fa - ther, your sav - ing death has made us one with God and
la - tion, pro - tect us from the dev - il's might thro' Je - sus,



God for - ev - er. God shows his good and gra - cious will and
chang - es nev - er. With bound-less pow'r, your might - y reign ful -
with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to you on high in
our sal - va - tion, who by his death up - on a tree has



grants his peace, the world to fill; all strife at last has end - ed.
fills what - ev - er you or - dain; Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!
our dis - tress we sin - ners cry: have mer - cy on us, a - men!
res - cued us from mis - er - y: to this we hold for - ev - er.

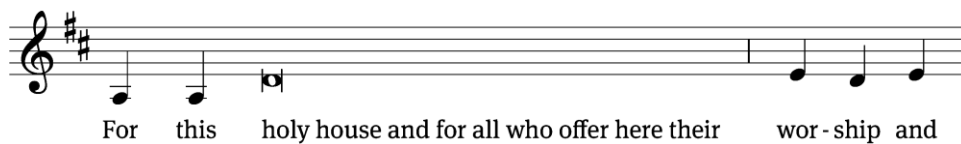
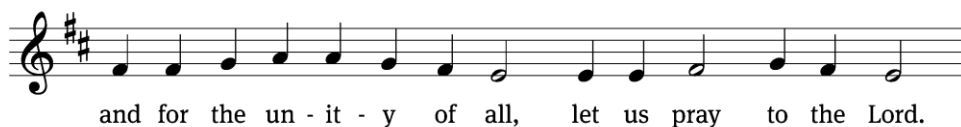
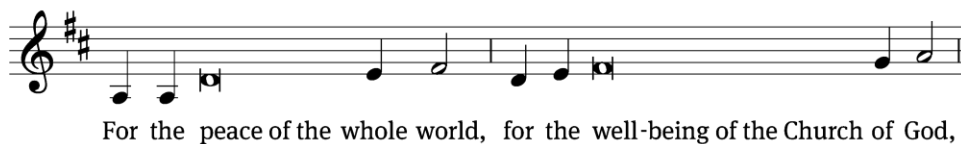
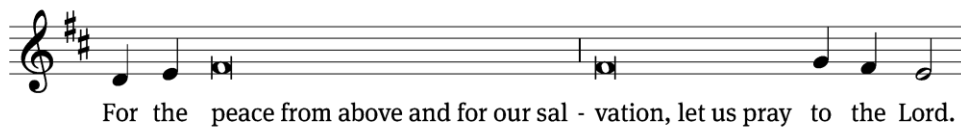
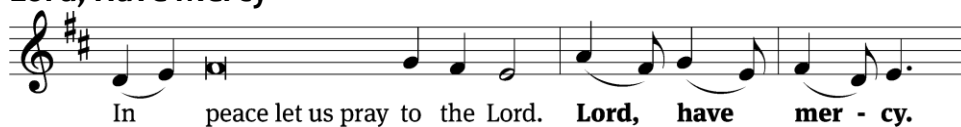
Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

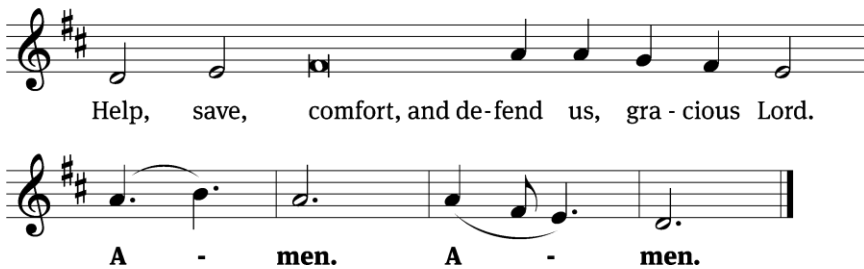
Tune: attr. Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546

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Lord, Have Mercy





Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

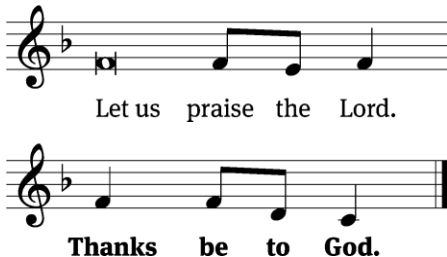
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

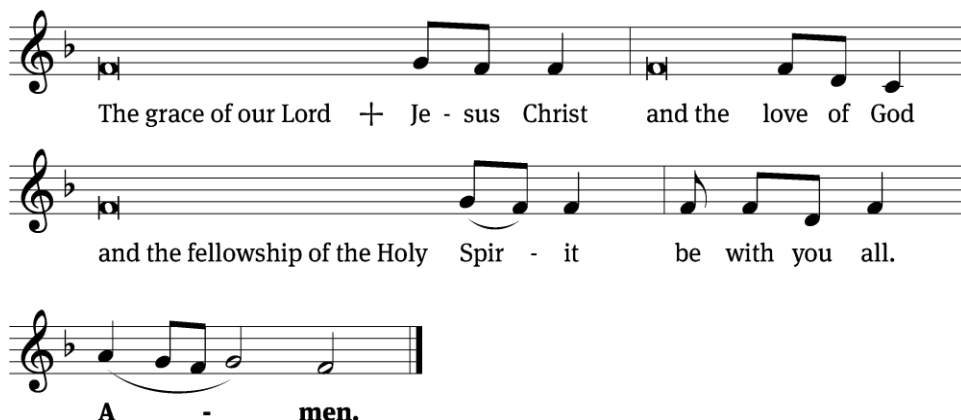
Lord's Prayer

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



Blessing



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

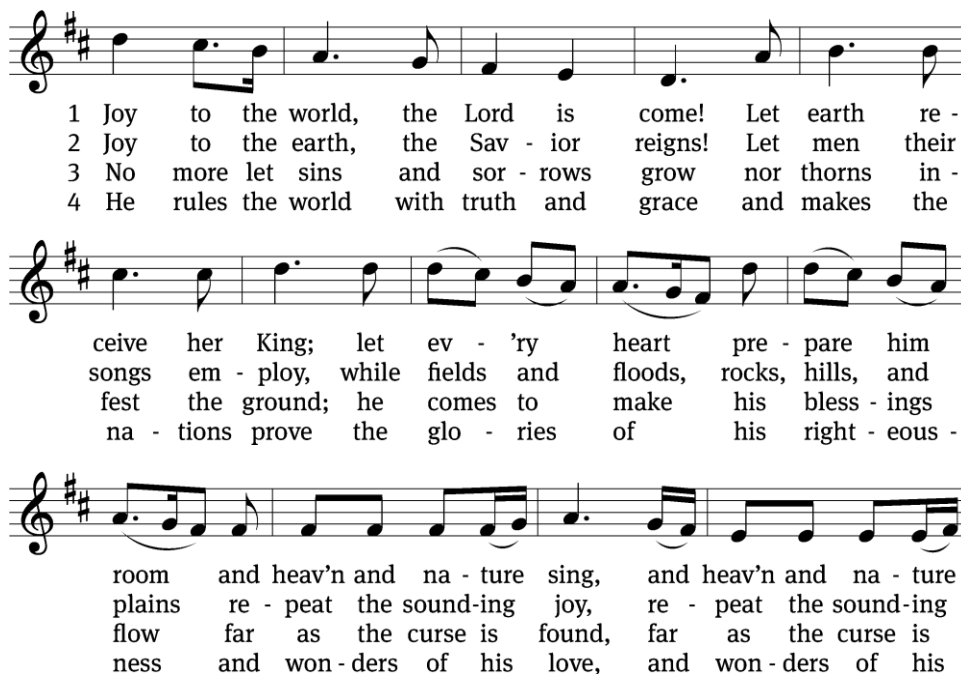
and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

A - men.

Please be seated

353 Joy to the World

CW 353



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

POINSETTIAS this week are given by the Vershum family in memory of Charlotte Vershum; Dave and Diane Stevenson in memory of Howard and Kelvin Braun; Dave and Ann Latowski in memory of Luther Nagel and Mark Nagel; the Brassow and Hargenrader families in memory of George and Marilyn Brassow and Vivian and Howard Hargenrader. Thank you all!

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES—

Sunday Worship—Sundays, December 21, 28 9:00 a.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
OrganistSarah Hanke
Bell Choir Director..... Jeremy Hanke
InstrumentalistsMarcia Marion Ackling, Sarah Hanke, Tom Amerman
Deacons..... Duane Mason and Ron Roehm
Altar GuildSharon Boswell and Judy Lindemann
VideographerJeff Neuburger

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