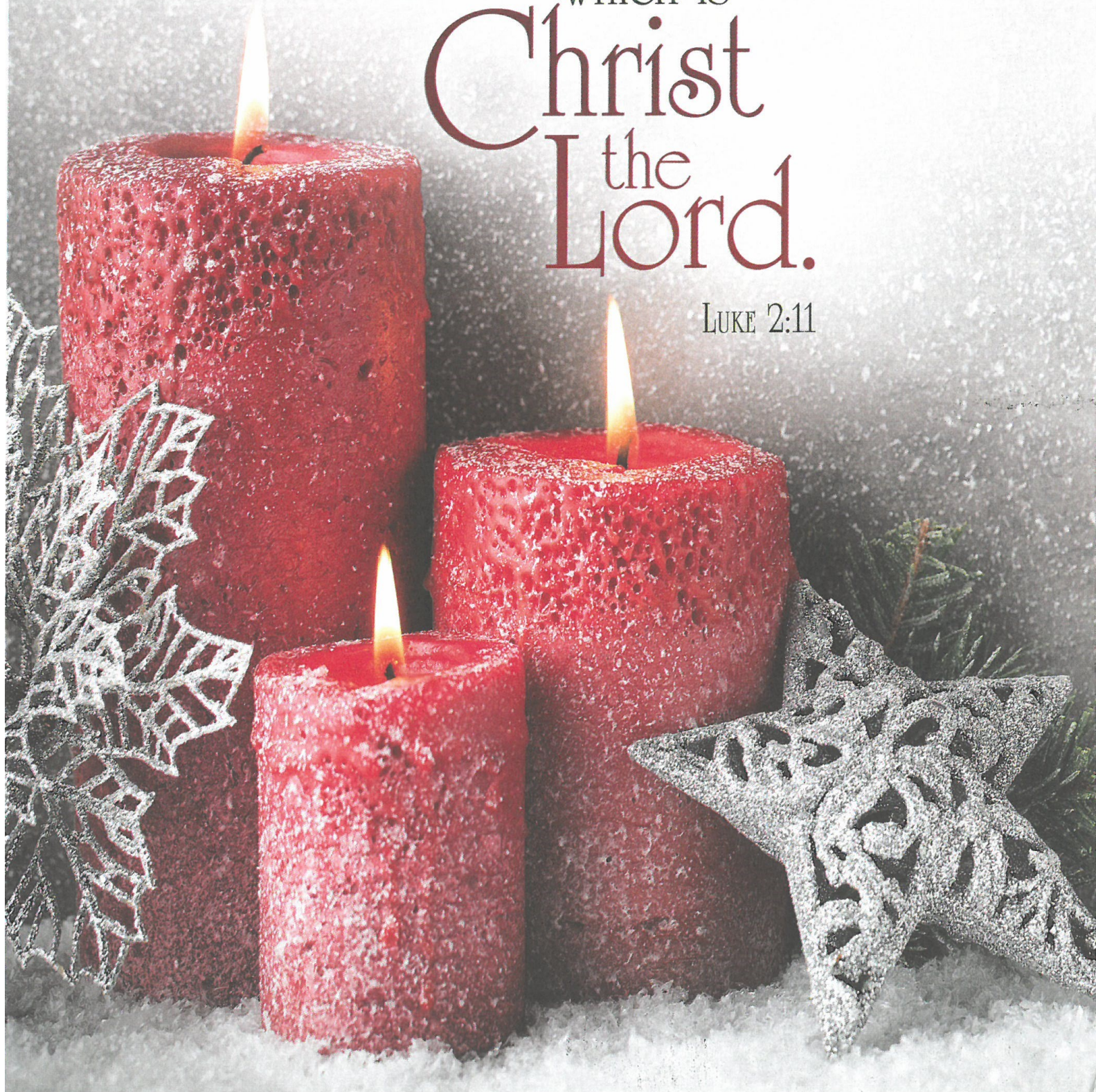


Unto you is born this day  
in the city of David  
a saviour,  
which is  
Christ  
the  
Lord.

LUKE 2:11



# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

December 24 & 25, 2023 • Online

## AS WE GATHER

*The King of Kings coming to us, incarnate as a child in Bethlehem, was evidence that our groanings were heard and God the creator answered our call for a Savior. Rather than simply choose a savior from humanity's hoard, the creator came. Fully God he came in complete humility. Born in poverty, laid in the manger for the livestock, Jesus humbled himself for us even to the point of giving his life. This Savior, whom not even death could hold, not only wants to be born in our world, He wants to dwell in our hearts by faith. If he is not living there already, may he be born in yours today.*

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

## CHRISTMAS WELCOME

## INVOCATION

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. *Isaiah 9:2a*

People: **We have beheld Christ's glory—glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

*John 1:14*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Proclaim the Holy Birth, and praises sing to God the King and peace to all on earth.**

## CHRISTMAS CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**LSB #361**



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The true light, which enlightens everyone,

People: **Was coming into the world.**

John 1:9

Pastor: Jesus said,

People: **I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.**

John 12:46

Pastor: The light has come into the world,

People: **and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.**

John 12:46

Pastor: We are those people dwelling in the darkness of sin. Let us together step into the light by confessing our sins to God and together sharing in his forgiveness.

*The congregation may kneel or remain standing as a moment of silent reflection and confession is observed.*

People: **Lord God, thank you for bringing your light into this world on Christmas. In what we have spoken and thought, by what we have done and by what we have left undone, we have shown ourselves to be those people that have preferred darkness over your light. Forgive us for lingering in the darkness of sin.**

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it! *John 1:5*

People: **If we walk in the light...we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus...cleanses us from all sin.**

*1 John 1:7*

Pastor: Our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

**CHRISTMAS CAROL "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"**

**B #386, vv 1, 3**



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.



He from whom joy stream - eth      Poor in a man - ger lies;  
Death was reign - ing o'er us      Through sin and van - i - ty



Not so bright - ly beam - eth      The sun in yon - der skies.  
Till He o - pened for us      A bright e - ter - ni - ty.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!

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**LITANY OF THE PROPHET**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

**Reader:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People:** **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has a light shined.**

**Reader:** For to us a child is born.

**People:** **To us a Son is given;**

**Reader:** and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**People:** **Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,**

**Reader:** on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

**People:** **To establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.**

**Reader:** The zeal of the Lord of Hosts

**People:** **will do this!**

# CHRISTMAS EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-14

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## CHRISTMAS CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB #379, vv 1-3



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!

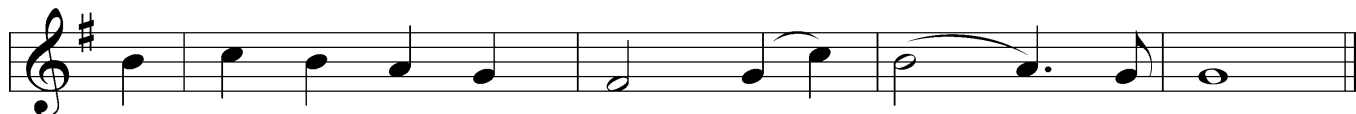


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:

*Refrain*



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



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

## CHRISTMAS GOSPEL PART 1 Luke 2:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

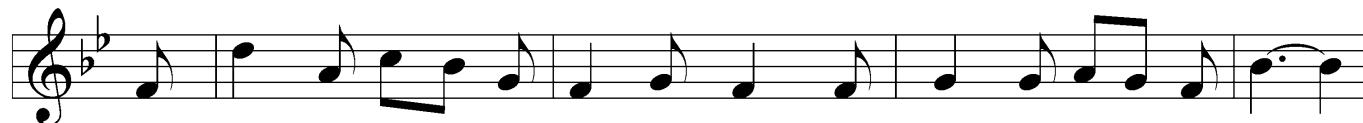
<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

## CHRISTMAS CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" *LSB #366*, vv 1 & 4



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

## CHRISTMAS GOSPEL PART 2 Luke 2:15-20

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Christmas Gospel.

People: **Jesus our Savior has come!**

## CHRISTMAS CAROL "What Child Is This"

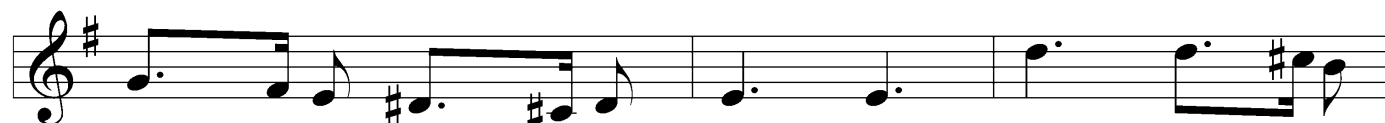
**LSB #370**



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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## CHRISTMAS SERMON

***“Christ Our Emmanuel Has Come”***

**Text: Isaiah 7:13-14 & Luke 2:10-12**

## OFFERING

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † Everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS

### 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**

## CANDLE LIGHTING

*(Pastor will take the light from the Christ candle and pass the light to the congregation. Tip only the unlighted candle to avoid dripping the wax. Thank you.)*

**Pastor: May the light of these candles remind us of Christ, our Light, the child in the manger at Bethlehem.**



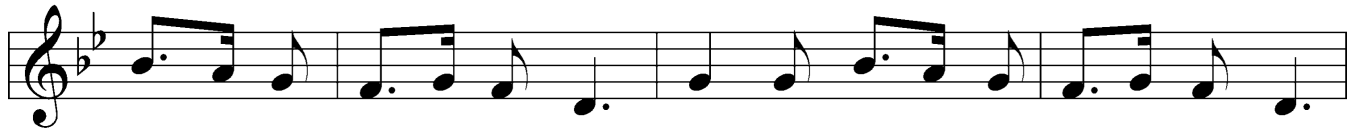
**CHRISTMAS CAROL**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

**LSB #363**



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



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

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**CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

**Pastor:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

**People:** **Amen! Let Heaven and nature sing!**

**DISMISSAL**

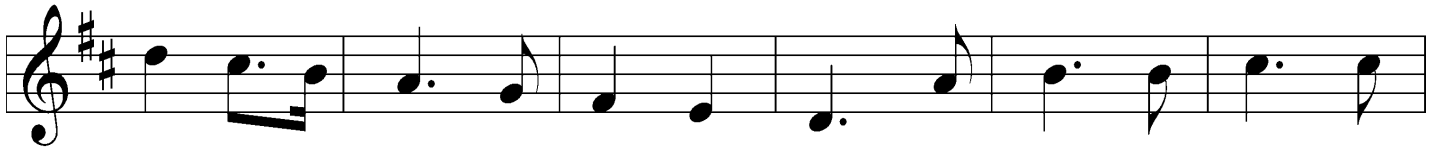
**POSTLUDE**

(Final Song will be sung outside!)

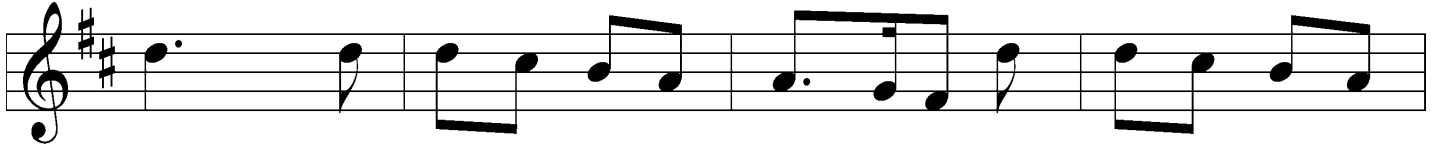
**CHRISTMAS CAROL**

**“Joy to the World”**

**LSB #387**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



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.

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**THANK YOU** to all who helped with this service both in-person and online.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**


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# HOLY CROSS

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**7307 N. Nevada** • **Spokane, WA 99208**  
509-483-4218 [www.holycrosslcms.net](http://www.holycrosslcms.net)