

TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Service time: 9:30am

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-2:00pm

TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 28, 2025

1st Sunday of Christmas

9:30 a.m.

Service of the Word - Setting 3 - ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship Year A)

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

PRELUDE

Announcements are on page 13-14.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A very warm welcome to all who worship here this morning, we thank God for sending you to Tabor.

Please stand if you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.
Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.
✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
Amen.

GATHERING

GATHERING SONG

The Bells of Christmas

ELW 298

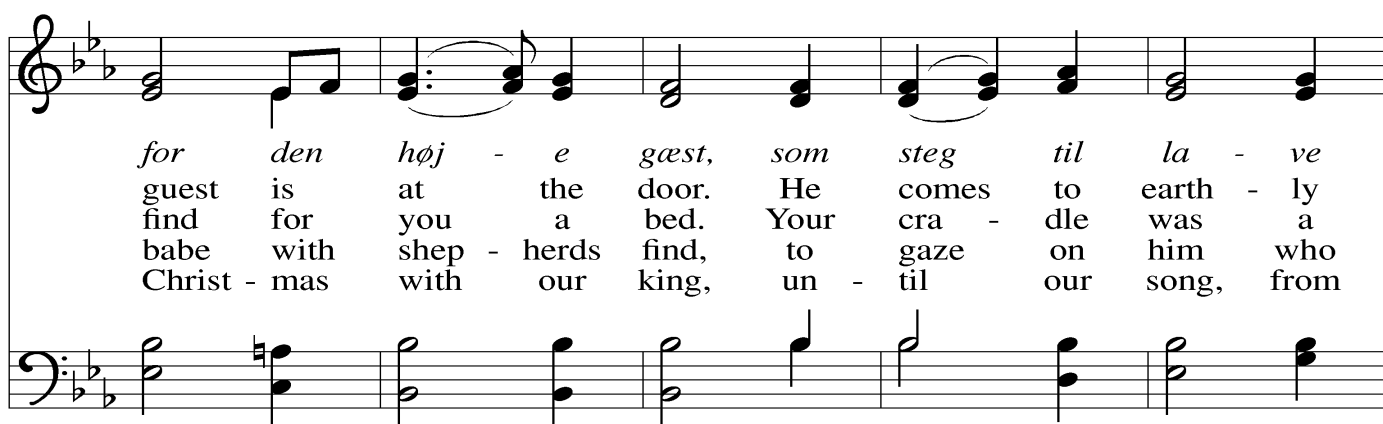
The Bells of Christmas

Det kimer nu til julefest



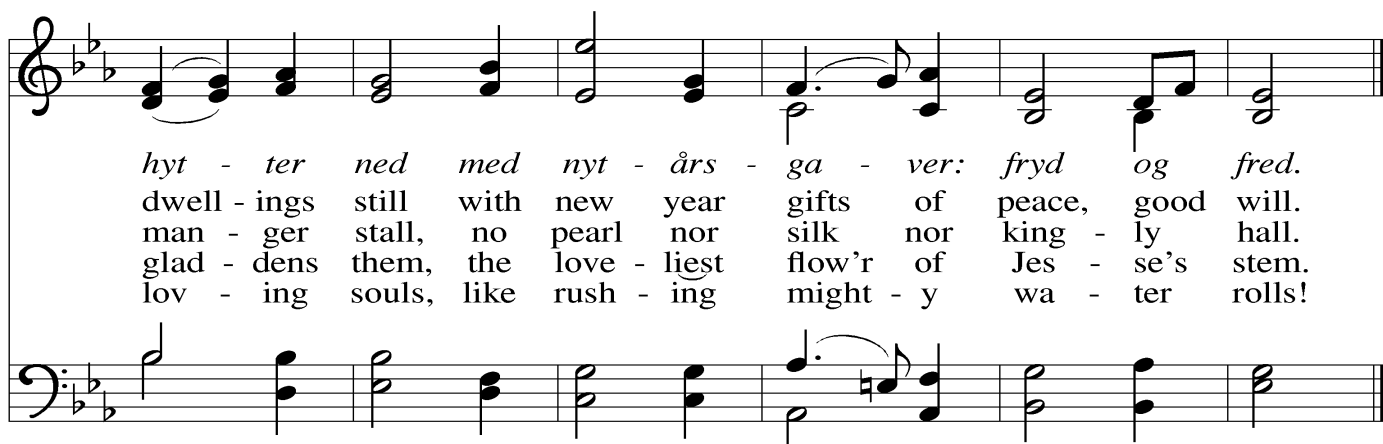
Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer

1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve

guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.

dwel - lings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
 O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
 O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
 great David's Son, great David's Lord:

6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
 and keep your Christmas in our breast;
 then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
 shall swell our jubilee of song.

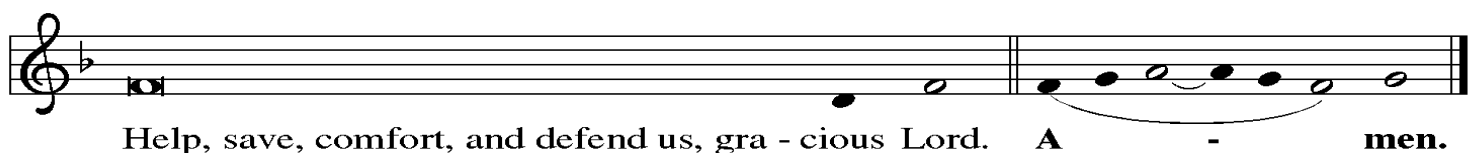
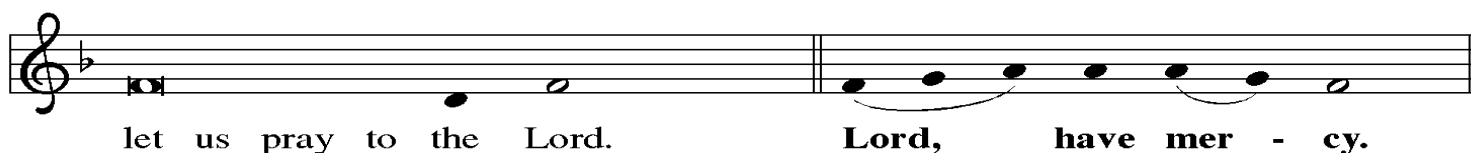
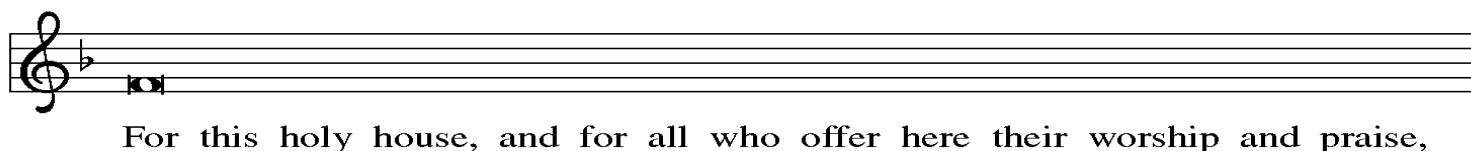
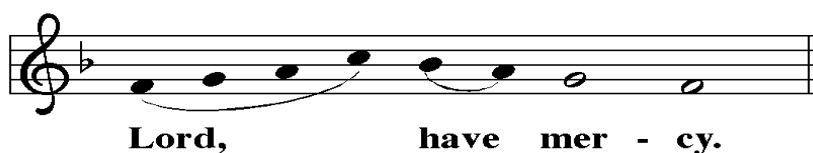
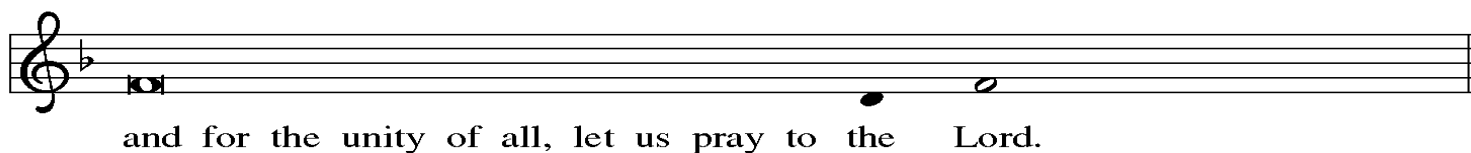
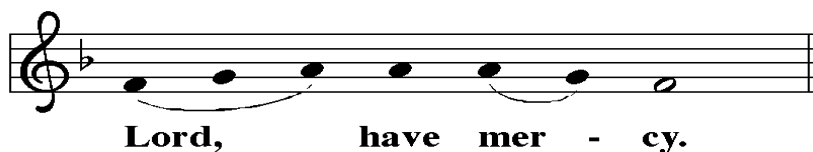
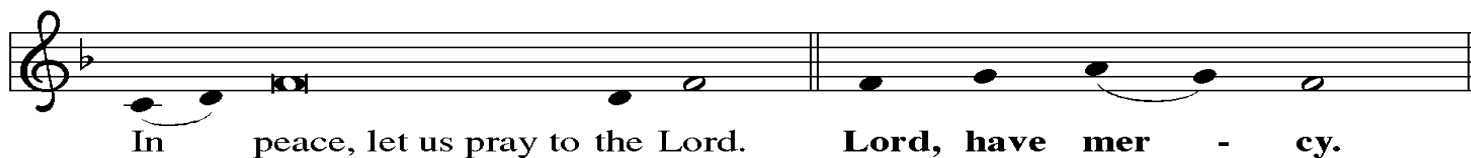
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

ELW Setting 3



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God

ELW Setting 3



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 148

Read responsively

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
praise God¹ in the heights.
- ² **Praise the LORD,¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you¹ hosts of heaven.**
- ³ Praise the LORD,¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you¹ shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav-¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a-¹ bove the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they¹ were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forev-¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not¹ pass away.**
- ⁷ Praise the LORD¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters¹ and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail,¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do-¹ ing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains¹ and all hills,
fruit trees¹ and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and¹ flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers¹ of the world;

continued on page 7

¹² young | men and maidens,
 old and | young together.
¹³ Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful
 servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. |
 Hallelujah!

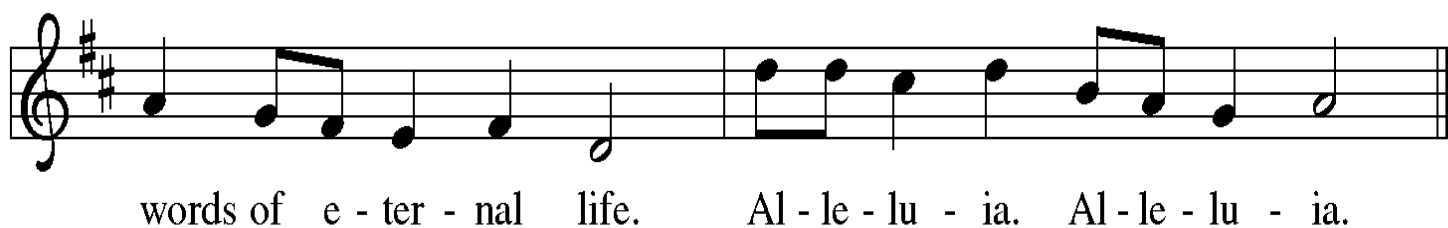
SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy gospel according to Matthew 2, the 2nd Chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:13-23

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Please be seated.

REFLECTION

Ryan Kessinger

A brief silence for reflection.

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 296

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the 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!

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

Each petition ends:

Hear us O God,

Your mercy is great.

Prayers conclude with:

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say:

Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND MUSIC

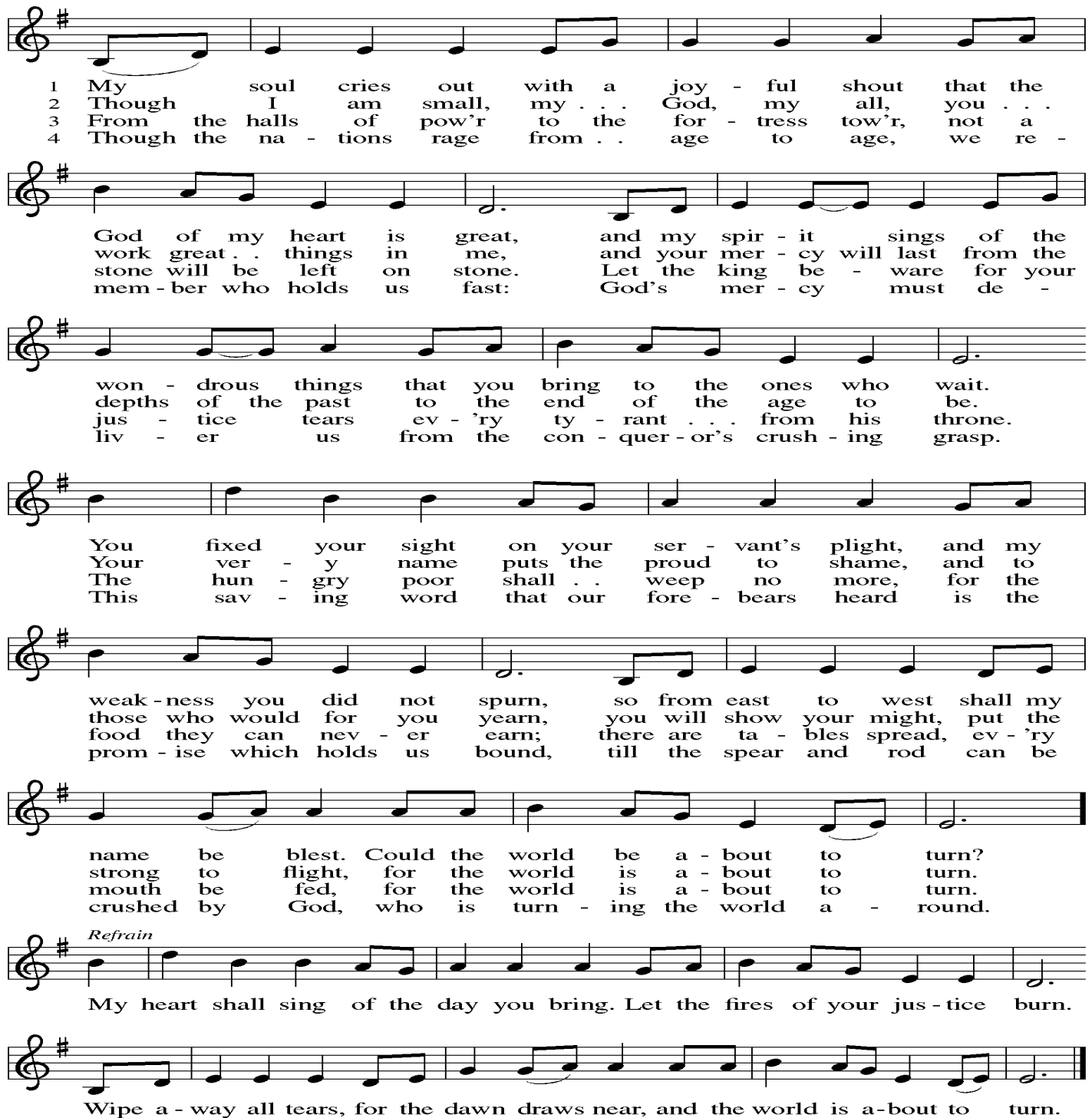
Special Piano music

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERTORY:

ELW 723

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.

Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,
great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.
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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

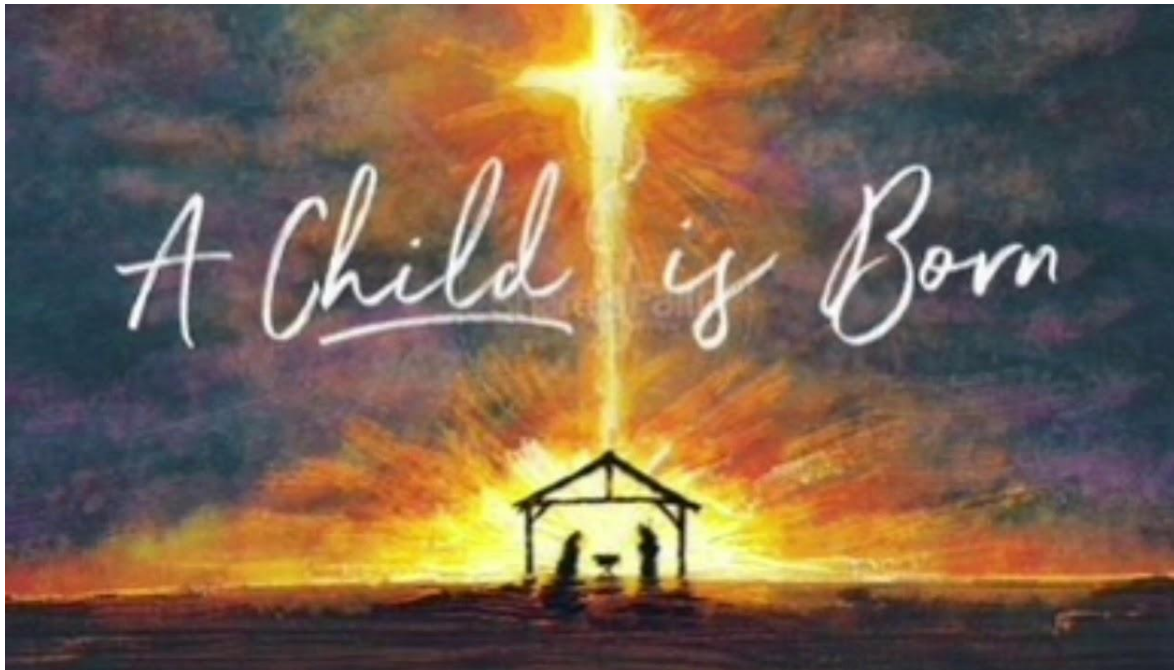
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

<u>Disciples Serving:</u>	<u>This Sunday</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Presider/Supply	Ryan Kessinger	Pr. Karen Matuska
Assisting Minister:	Cyrisse Cooley	Jerry Vargues
Pianist:	Dr. J. Michael Beck	Dr. J. Michael Beck
Altar Guild:	Kathy Lambert/Linda Johnson	Connie Wisthoff
Ushers/Greeters:	Jerry Vargues	Jackie Cooley
Counters/Posters:	Nancy Piazza/Cassie Walgren	Kathy Lambert/Sue Kastelic
JAM:	No JAM - Christmas Break	Children's Sermon

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

December 28	Karl Wisthoff	
December 29	Vicki Moore	
December 30	Jeff & Nina Jesmain	36 years
January 2	Ali Truxell	
January 3	Shirley Bass	
January 3	Pam Salas	



PRAYERS

<u>Members, Friends and Relatives</u>	<u>Added by Members</u>
Doris Ask	People of Tabor
Shirley Bass	People of Tabor
Michael Beck	People of Tabor
Robert Bogusch	Nephew of Kathy Lambert
Pam Cardinal	Sister of Clay Kashner
Devin Caveza	Grandson of Tony Martinet
John Centa	Bowens Family
Sandy, Tyler and Tori English	Friends of Emily Briggs
Virgie Giannetto	Lynn Truxell
Vicki Granato	Michelle Vargues
Larry Hall	Bowens Family
Brian & Geri Helm	Bowens Family
Nina Jesmain	People of Tabor
Etta Kay Johnson	Sister-in-law of Linda Johnson
Linda Johnson	People of Tabor
Clay Kashner	People of Tabor
Sue Kastelic	People of Tabor
Kathy Lambert	People of Tabor
Kathy Laney & Family	Connie Wisthoff
Stefanie Montes	Bowens Family
DJ Nichols	Truxell Family
Will Nichols	Truxell & Vargues Families
Evelyn Omev	Twin sister of Shirley Bass
Andrea Pitre	Friend of Emily Briggs
Kenzie Roberts	Granddaughter of Gwen Hedding
Kimberly Roberts	Daughter of Gwen Hedding
Pam Salas	People of Tabor
Family of Cheryl Salay	People of Tabor
Starcher Family	Friends of Emily Briggs
Caitlan Thorne & Family	Granddaughter of Kathy Lambert
Justin, Harper & Hazel Tolan	Grandson/Great-granddaughters of Denise Tristano
Marvin Truxell	Truxell & Vargues Families
Charlotte Vargues	People of Tabor
Linda Wagner	Lynn Truxell
Sandra Zupan	Sister of Ruth Valencia