

# The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025



# CHRISTMAS



198 Westridge Avenue, Burlington, Wisconsin  
262-763-8229 | stjohnsburlington.org  
Pastor Kirk Lahmann | Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

## **Welcome to Worship**

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

## **Christmas Eve Focus for Worship – Silent Night, Holy Night**

“Silent Night” was first written in German by Austrian Pastor Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend says the church organ was broken, prompting Gruber to compose a simple guitar accompaniment. Subsequently accompanied by many instruments and translated into many languages, the text paints the picture of the Incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: “Christ the Savior is born!” Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of Christmas.

## **Serving at Worship**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Preacher: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Accompanist: Allison Sorensen (4:30 pm); Stephen Radsek (6:30 pm)

String Ensemble: Samuel Lahmann, Ella Malliet, Samuel Malliet

Guitarist: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

## **Acknowledgments**

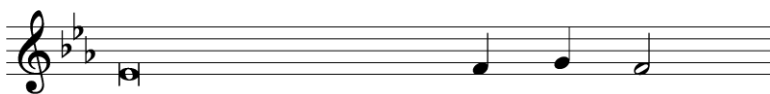
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. Holden Evening Prayer, text and tune: © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709159. Tune: Marty Haugen. The Closing Collect is reprinted from *Now and Forever: Contemporary Collects...*, © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission.

# Evening Prayer

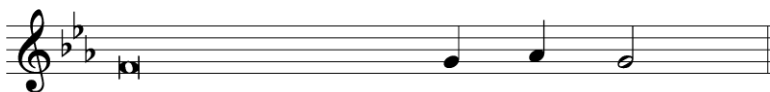
## *Vespers*

### Welcome to Worship

### Service of Light



Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;



the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



Stay with us now, for it is evening,



and the day is al - most over.



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,



and shine within your peo - ple here.





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.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.  
 Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Evening Thanksgiving



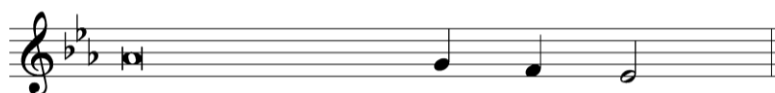
May God be with you all,



and al - so with you.



Let us sing our thanks to God;



it is right to give him thanks and praise.



Blessed are you, Cre - a - tor of the u - ni - verse—



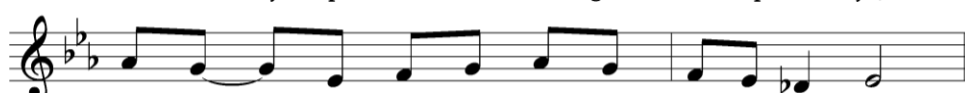
from old you have led your peo - ple by night and day. May the



light of your Christ make our dark-ness bright, for your



Word and your pres-ence are the light of our path - ways, and



you are the light and life of all cre - a - tion.



A - men.

## Hymn

All My Heart Again Rejoices | 329:1-2

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear  
2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe,  
far and near sweet - est an - gel voic - es.  
sin and woe, death and hell are bro - ken!"  
"Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing till the air  
God is man, man to de - liv - er, and the Son  
ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
now is one with our blood for - ev - er.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr., adapt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9

On this holy night, we remember why Jesus was born. He came because of sin and because of love. He came to take away the punishment and guilt of our sin, and to bring us the comfort and grace of God's eternal love. Tonight we ponder the mystery of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we make room for him in our hearts, confessing our sins to him and welcoming him as our blessed Savior.

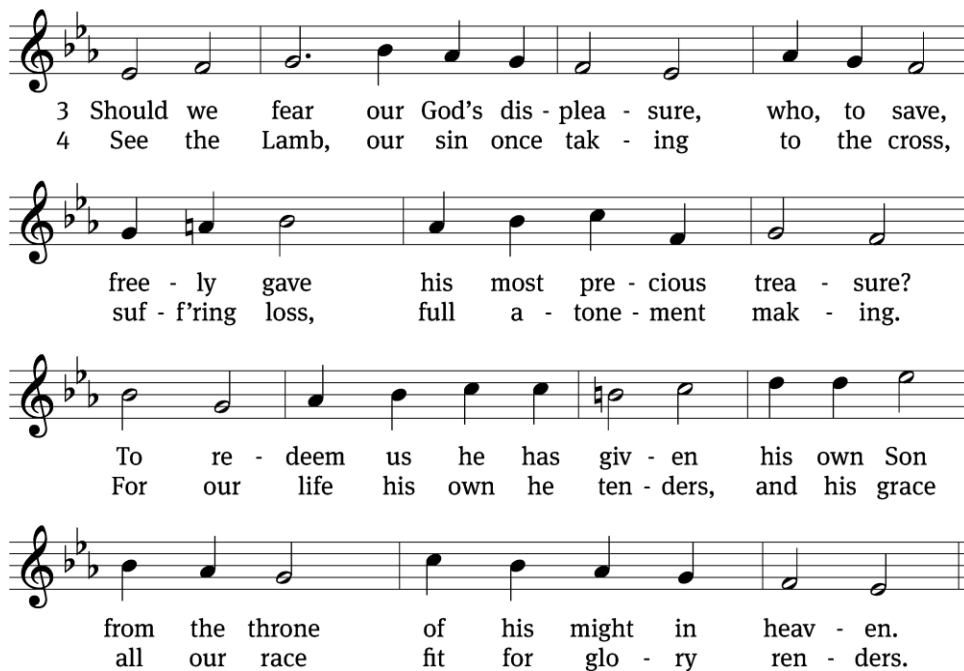
**Lord Jesus, we confess that we are by nature sinful and that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. We need you and the mercy which you were born to bring, and so we come before your manger this night and pray: "O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today."**

Jesus Christ did not come into the world to condemn us, but to save us from the punishment and curse of our sin. He is the atoning sacrifice for all our sins. He was born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

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

## Hymn

All My Heart Again Rejoices | 329:3-4



3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, who, to save,  
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing to the cross,  
free - ly gave his most pre - cious trea - sure?  
suf - f'ring loss, full a - tone - ment mak - ing.  
To re - deem us he has giv - en his own Son  
For our life his own he ten - ders, and his grace  
from the throne of his might in heav - en.  
all our race fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

All My Heart Again Rejoices | 329:5-6



5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls  
6 Come, then, ban - ish all your sad - ness! One and all,  
one and all, "You are safe from dan - ger.  
great and small, come with songs of glad - ness;  
Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you you are freed;  
we shall live with him for - ev - er there on high  
all you need I will sure - ly give you."  
in that joy which will van - ish nev - er.

## First Reading

Micah 5:2-5

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Hymn

To Shepherds as They Watched by Night | 335:1-3

1 To shep - herds as they watched by night ap - peared a  
2 "At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, as Mi - cah  
3 O then re - jice that through his Son God is with  
host of an - gels bright; "Be - hold the ten - der  
did of old make known. It is the Christ, your  
sin - ners now at one; made like your - selves of  
babe," they said, "in yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,  
Lord and King, who will to all sal - va - tion bring."  
flesh and blood, your broth - er is th'e - ter - nal God.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

Once in Royal David's City | 343

*Stand*

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day**

Angels We Have Heard on High | 346

## Sermon Texts

### Luke 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

### John 1:29

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

### *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace,  
good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you,  
we worship you, we glorify you,  
we give thanks to you,

for your great glory,  
O Lord God, heav’nly King,  
God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O 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 sit at the right hand of God the Father;  
have mercy on us.

For you only are holy;  
you only are the Lord.

You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
are most high  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax  
hominibus bonae voluntatis.*

*Laudamus te, benedicimus te,  
adoramus te, glorificamus te,  
gratias agimus tibi*

*propter magnam gloriam tuam,  
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.*

*Domine Fili Unigenite, Jesu Christe,  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis;*

*qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostrum.*

*Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.*

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus  
tu solus Dominus,*

*tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu:  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

## Sermon

Glory to God in the Highest – A Christmas *Gloria*

## Hymn Response

All Glory Be to God on High | 935

## Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

*Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.*

## Prayer of the Church

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. On this holy night, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.

**Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.**

Impress on us the poverty and pain your Son endured in our place, how he willingly set aside his power and place and assumed the weakness of an infant and the starkness of a stable. Lead us to acknowledge the sins which compelled his humiliation and the love which accepted his lowliness.

**Forgive us and move us to trust in his mission to save us.**

Take away our fears and fright and fill us with joy as we hear the message that Jesus was born for us and that he came to restore peace with you and mend the bond broken by sin. Move us to sing our carols and hymns not with passing pleasure but with the depth of praise for his extraordinary love.

**Let our songs and hymns reflect our faith in the redemption gained by Christ.**

Lead us to kneel at his manger with hearts of faith and to see there the God-man who takes away the sins of the world. Guide and guard us so that the happiness shared with family and friends does not delay or discourage our journey to his holy crib.

**Make the birth of Christ our highest priority and deepest pleasure.**

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

**Move us to tell the good news we have seen and heard.**

During this hectic holiday, provide us with quiet times to remember what the birth of Jesus really means for us and all people, that he came to free us from the evil forces that separated us from your love, that he lived and died to forgive our sins, and that he rose in triumph to prepare a place where we will live with you forever.

**Move us to sing with hearts of faith, “Glory to God in the highest!” Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer** *Pater Noster*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**Candle Lighting**

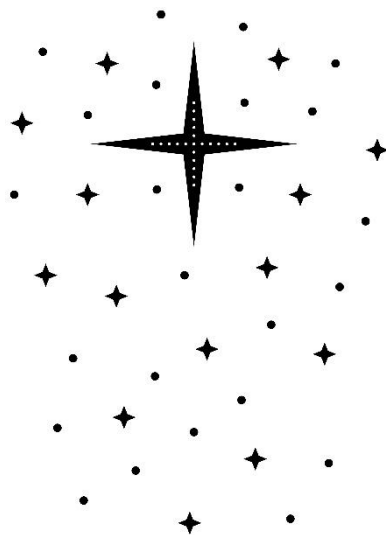
*Isaiah 9:2; 2 Corinthians 4:6; John 1:4*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
**on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.**

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts  
**to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.**

May we keep burning within our hearts the light of Christ the King, this Babe, the Son of Mary, and share that light with our world.

**In him is life, and that life is the light of all!**



*The presiding minister will light his candle from the Christ candle at the center of the Advent wreath. The ushers will light their candles from the minister’s candle. Worshippers nearest the aisle will light their candles from the ushers’ candles. Please hold lighted candles upright and tip only unlit candles into the flame of a lighted candle. The lights in the church will be dimmed.*

## Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem | 333:1, 2, &amp; 4



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  
 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.  
 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,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings 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.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908. Text and tune: Public domain.

## Hymn

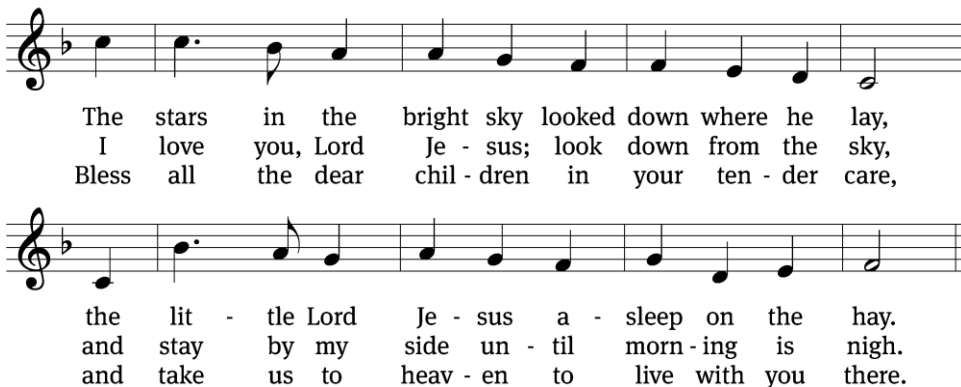
Away in a Manger | 340



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



Text (sts. 1–2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt. Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905. Text and tune: Public domain.

## Prayer

O Lord, you have filled this holy night with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ. You have revealed your peace and goodwill through him and have given us blessed hope. Increase our joy with that news that a child is born to us, a Son is given to us; your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

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 us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**





1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848. Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863. Text and tune: Public domain.

*Please extinguish all candles after the hymn.*



Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25, 9:30 am

Holy Innocents

Sunday, December 28, 8:00 am and 10:30 am

*No Monday night service, December 29*

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31, 4:30 pm

Epiphany

Sunday, January 4, 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Monday, January 5, 6:30 pm