

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Now we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, when God's word was made flesh to live among us full of grace and truth. Engage this resource for worship at home and accompanying videos as you desire on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day. God bless your worshipful celebrations at home.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Nativity of Our Lord
December 24—25, 2020
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by engaging in the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day. Worship Video and Music can be found at: <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201225/playlist>

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The readings may be read and the hymns may sung, as follows:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem: Zebulon M. Highben, “The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow”

Music may be found at:

<https://youtu.be/AoyqjQL30ww>



You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at:
https://youtu.be/h_A5Z9EjrsW

HYMN: ELW #272

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth,
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

SECOND READING: Matthew 1:18-25

A reading from Matthew.

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’ ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: John Jacob Niles, “What Songs Were Sung”

Thomas Mugavero, tenor

Music may be found at:

<https://youtu.be/wCska96arP4>



You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at:
<https://youtu.be/nF3myQafbV8>

HYMN: ELW #290 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

THIRD READING: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

A reading from Luke.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem: John Huston, arr., “What Is This Fragrance?”

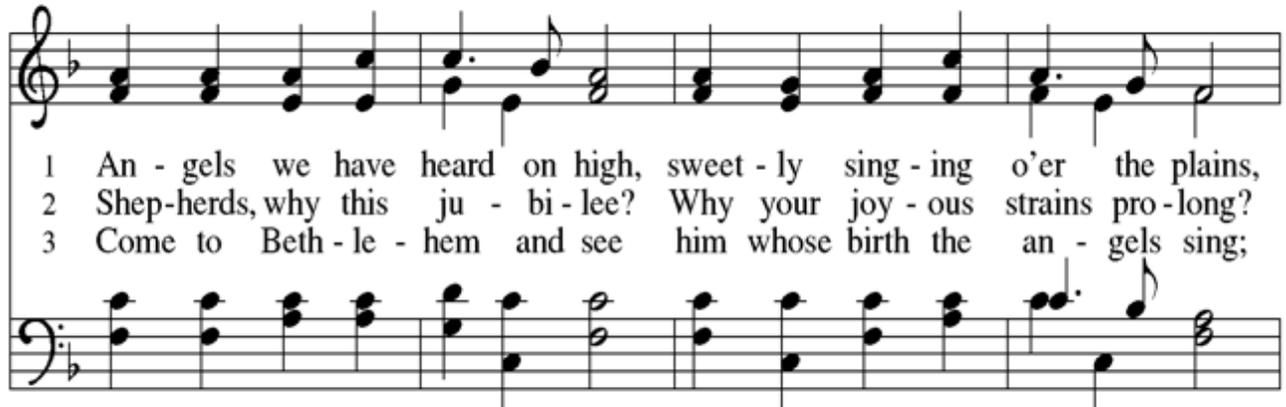
Music may be found at:

<https://youtu.be/dt48s6Des>

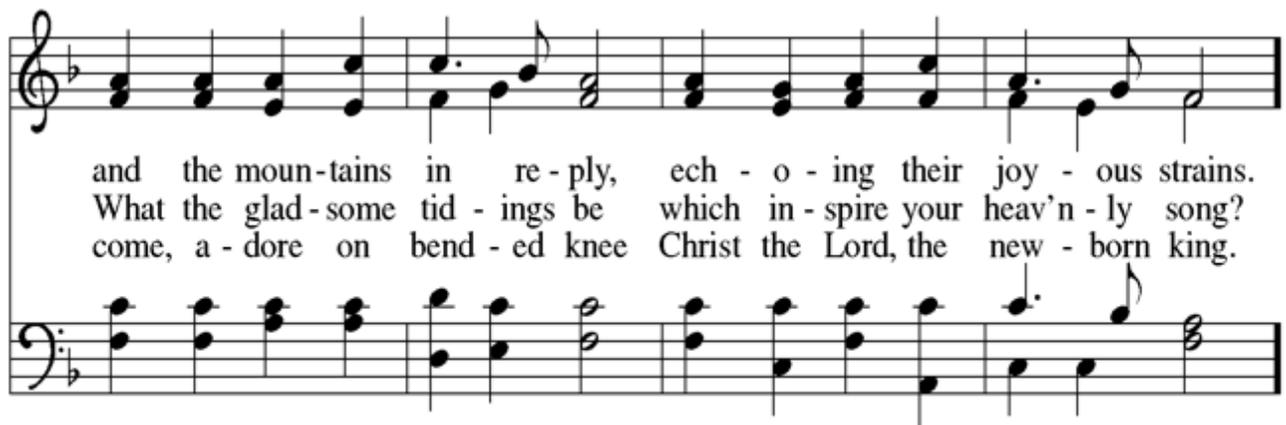
You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at:
<https://youtu.be/xfG33W5h8Ks>

HYMN: ELW #289

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

FORTH READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from Isaiah.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”
⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Robert Lehman, “I Sing of a Maiden,”

Darwyn Banks, tenor, Claire and Carole Smith, flutes

Music may be found at:

<https://youtu.be/7Mf57VOx5Y>

Choir Anthem: Robert Lau, arr. “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Music may be found at:

<https://youtu.be/Lz9qGra3e3w>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at:
https://youtu.be/aWMN9txL0_M

HYMN: ELW #267

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row 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 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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

FIFTH READING: Hebrews 1:1-12

A reading from Hebrews.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,

and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

¹²like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



**Anthem: French Folk Song “Sing, O Sing, This Blessed Morn”
Lee Ann Konstantinov, soprano and Valerie Saba, alto**

Music may be found at

https://youtu.be/5Mkn3MI2F_M

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at:
<https://youtu.be/jme6QRznyCM>

HYMN: ELW #295 Of the Father's Love Begotten

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 in old time chant - ed of 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, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have deem - been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 pect - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

SIXTH READING: John 1:1-14

A reading from John.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Peter Cornelius, “The Three Kings”, Gary Roebuck, baritone, Lee Ann Konstantinov, Valerie Saba, Darwyn Banks, Tom Mugavero, Clark Person and Robert Verdile, choral ensemble

Music may be found at:

<https://youtu.be/ThxN63kHO5s>

Having read these readings, think of this:

“All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” Today we enter into that seeing. That victory and salvation come here, to this end of the earth, for us to behold with our eyes. Jesus Christ “is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being.” Word of God become flesh, living among us, “we have seen his glory . . . full of grace and truth.” At Christmas we see him and his salvation: in the word we read; in the assembly around this word and in the bread and cup where he gives himself away or in the treasured memory of that assembly and that meal; in the faces of people who belong to him and are near to us; in our neighbors; in the very earth that came into being through him and holds together in him. Look at the Word become flesh and rejoice, receiving that fullness of grace and truth.

HOMILY

Pastor Linman’s Homily can be found at:
https://youtu.be/ZDG_Kfc1OLc



You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at:
<https://youtu.be/aUb8YY1J8ZM>

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #283

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



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!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



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:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade



Then pray these intercessions:

As we celebrate Christmas, let us praise God for the birth of our Savior and pray for all in need, responding to each petition with the words “Your mercy is great.”

A brief silence.

Mighty and merciful God, we praise you for bringing your word to birth among us. Strengthen with your Spirit all the baptized, so that even where the faithful cannot assemble for worship, the whole church can together honor the birth of Jesus.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God our Redeemer.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for your created earth, the stars in the sky, the animals in stables, the flocks in the fields. Show us your majesty in the brightness of day and the darkness of night. Rouse our care for your magnificent creation.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God our Creator.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for each day that knows peace and welcomes justice. Inspire leaders of nations to seek concord where there is war and violence. Guard ambassadors, relief workers, and military personnel the world over. Visit both the Palestinians and the Israelis, and protect the many peoples who live under military rule. Make our own streets avenues of peace.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God our Sovereign.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for the benefits of light available in our homes and shining on our trees. Accompany those who enjoy no such light, and protect all who labor in the darkness on behalf of others.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God our Light.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for new parents with their newborns and for the joys of families of every shape and size. Visit the homes where there is sickness or sorrow. Abide

with people who live isolated from others. Bless the children who this year receive no gifts.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God our Treasure.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for every sign of your loving presence, and we pray for all who suffer. Heal the sick. Feed the hungry. Shelter the homeless and the refugee. Visit those in prison. Comfort mourners. We pray especially for Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Gretchen Zeltner, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Frank Fuelling, Phillip Swingler, Michael Chaffier, Maria Liwski, Mimi Van Poole, Lee Hanson, Grant Aldonis, Angie, Kyler, Debbie, Kat, Sherry and Todd.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God our Savior.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for the development of coronavirus vaccines. We pray for the millions who are afflicted with Covid-19. Uphold physicians, nurses, and all health care workers, and provide medical facilities for everyone.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God our Healer.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you, the almighty God born on the earth; and so you transformed the cosmos. Come to each of us, and receive our silent prayers.

A longer period of silence.

Hear us, O God our Beloved.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed, especially those we name here and remember in our hearts: Don Hanson. With them, let us sing your praise, now and forever.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

To you, Mighty God, Prince of peace, wonderful Counselor, we offer our praises for your grace upon grace. Receive our prayers in the name of the one who was born to live and die and rise again for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://youtu.be/LQvqQxWzZqc>

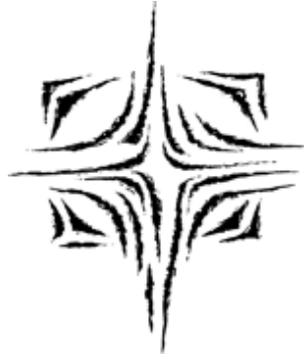
HYMN: ELW #281
Silent Night, Holy Night!
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 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,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 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 your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 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 your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.



Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

Holy God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor,
at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world,
and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.
For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh,
to shine in our world's darkness, to speak peace to all peoples,
and to welcome us as members of your family.
For your loving Word, we adore you, O God.
We adore you, O God.

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,
that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,
we may live as your children, bearing your goodness throughout the world.
For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever. Amen.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**



Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

Organ Voluntary: Adolphus Hailstork, Toccata on “Veni Emmanuel”

Music may be found at:

<https://youtu.be/G9bsjXNkhpM>

Readings for the Week:

Friday (Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day) John 1:1-14. **Saturday** (Stephan, Deacon and Martyr) Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60. **First Sunday of Christmas** Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #272, Hymn #290, Hymn #289, Hymn #267, Hymn #295, Hymn #283, and Hymn #281. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-713051.

Liturgical elements from *Sundays and Seasons.com*. © 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006914.