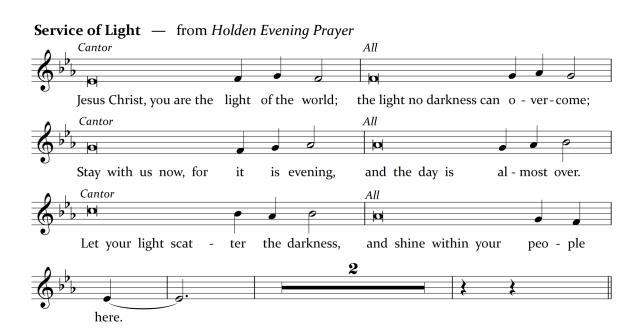
ADVENT VESPERS

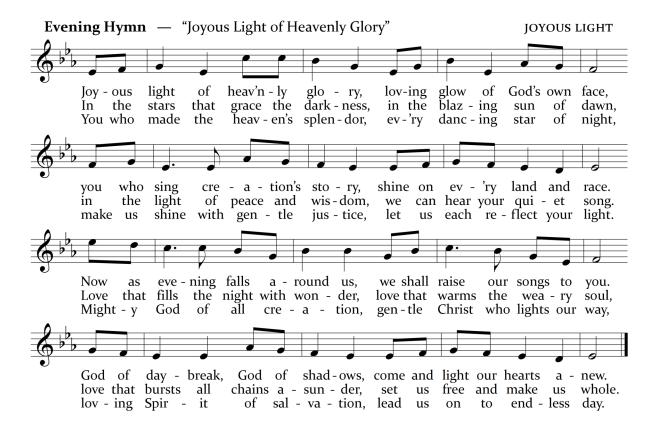
Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 6:30 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church Northfield, Minnesota



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements





Lighting of the Advent Wreath

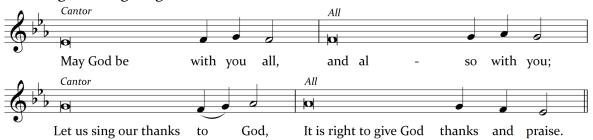
P Christ, our light, shine in our lives with hope and promise. Open our eyes to see you in others. Help us to be people of hope.

As we light the Advent candles, I invite you to light two candles on your Advent wreath, or two candles you have in your home. May we be connected by the light of Christ this evening.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.



Evening Thanksgiving

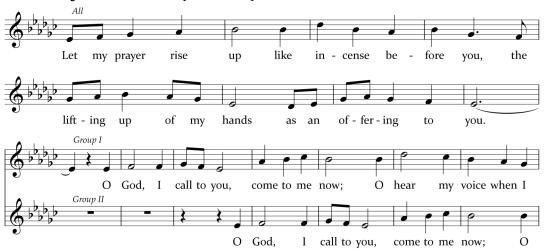


Cantor: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

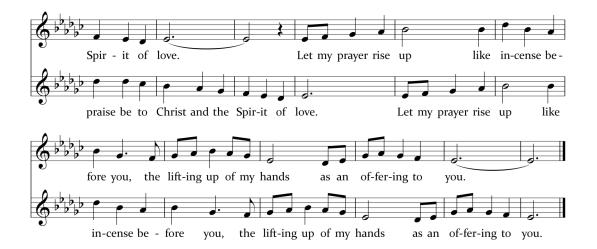


Psalmody — Psalm 141, "Let My Prayer Rise Up"

Please sing with either Group I or Group II.







Prayer

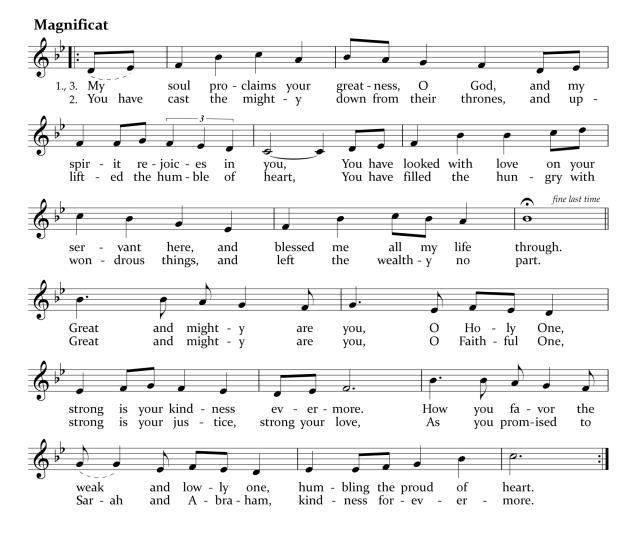
- P May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.
- Amen.

Reading — Jeremiah 29:4-14

⁴Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD. ¹⁰For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

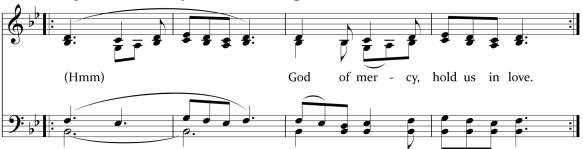
The Annunciation

Cantor: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."



Prayers

All: (repeat continuously while cantor sings verses)



Cantor: In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

For peace and salvation, we pray to you:

For peace between nations, and peace between peoples:

For all of your servants who live out your gospel:

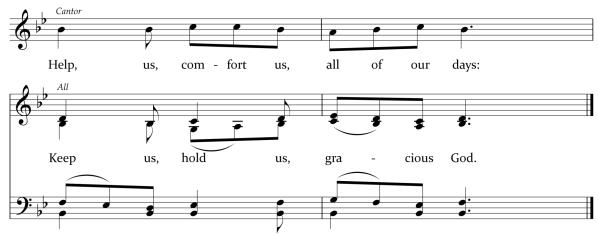
For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:

For all those who labor in service to others:

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:

Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:

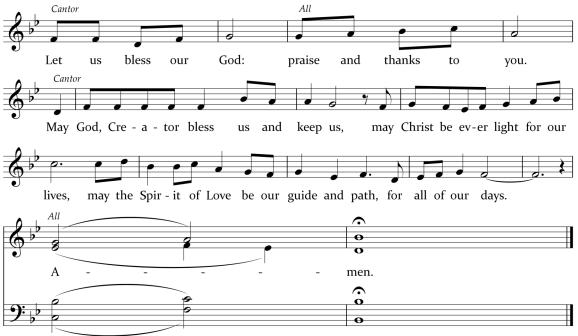
For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:



Closing Prayer

- Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Amen.





*Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always. • And also with you. You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Worship Leaders:

Nancy Ordahl-Kmoch, Pastor Pam Fickenscher Nathan Proctor, piano; Sonja Wermager, violin



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