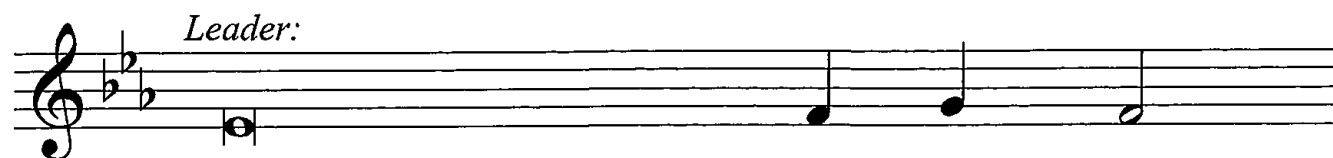


The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

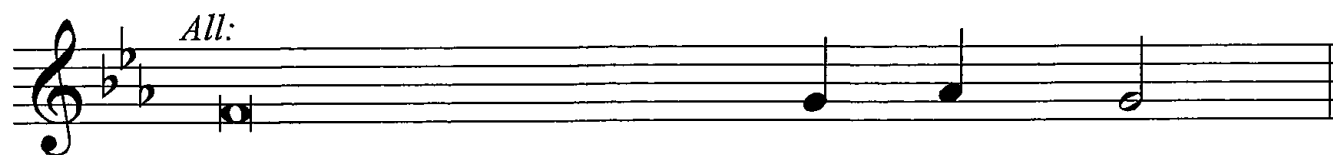
Vespers Evening Prayer
December 17, 2025

7:00 p.m.

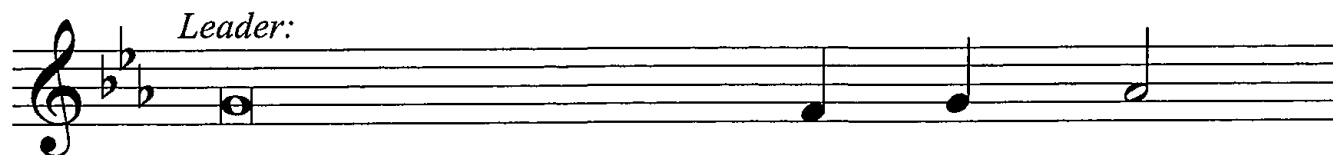
Procession



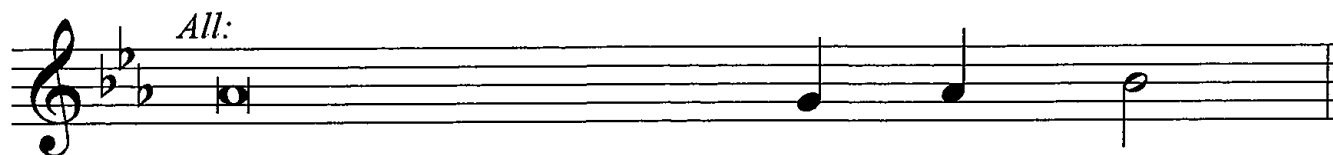
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;



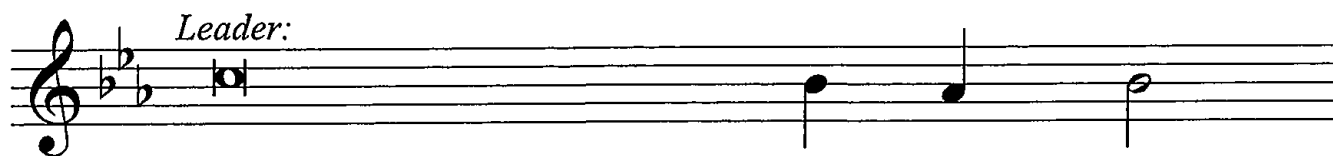
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;



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. —

Evening Hymn



1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

Evening Thanksgiving

Leader: May God be with you all, *All:* and al - so with you;

Leader: Let us sing our thanks to — God,

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P 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.

All: A — men.

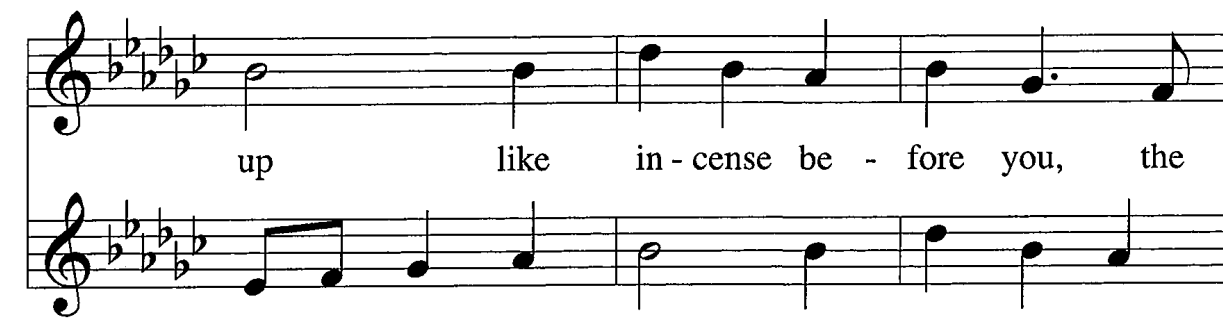
Psalmody, Readings and Canticles

Psalm 141

All may sing with either group.

All:

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
fore you, the lift - ing up of my
hands as an of - fer - ing to you. —
— O God, I call to you, come to me
O God, I
now; O hear my voice when I
call to you, come to me now; O
cry to you. — Let my prayer rise
hear my voice when I cry to you.



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

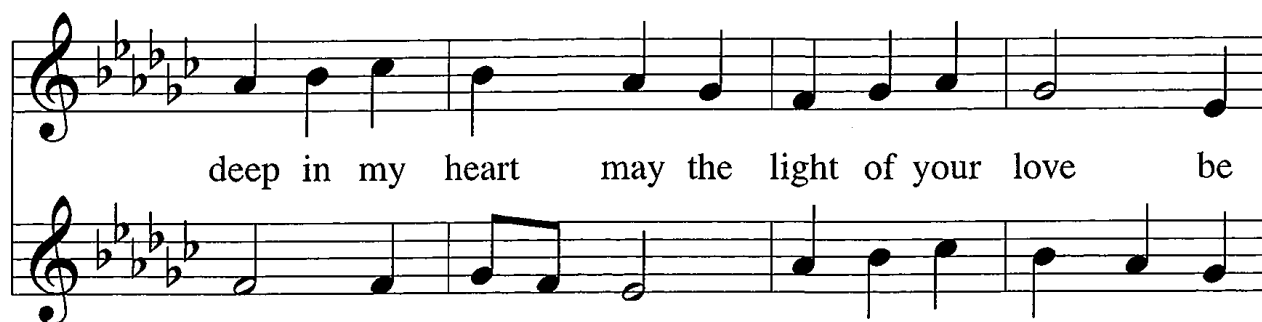


fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an



of - fer-ing to you.

Keep



watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the



light of your love be burn - ing bright.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to

fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. All praise to the God of all - Cre -

of - fer - ing to you. All

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

praise to the God of all - Cre - a - tor of life; all

Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise

praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

up like in-cense be - fore you, the

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you.

of - fer - ing to you.

- 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
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn

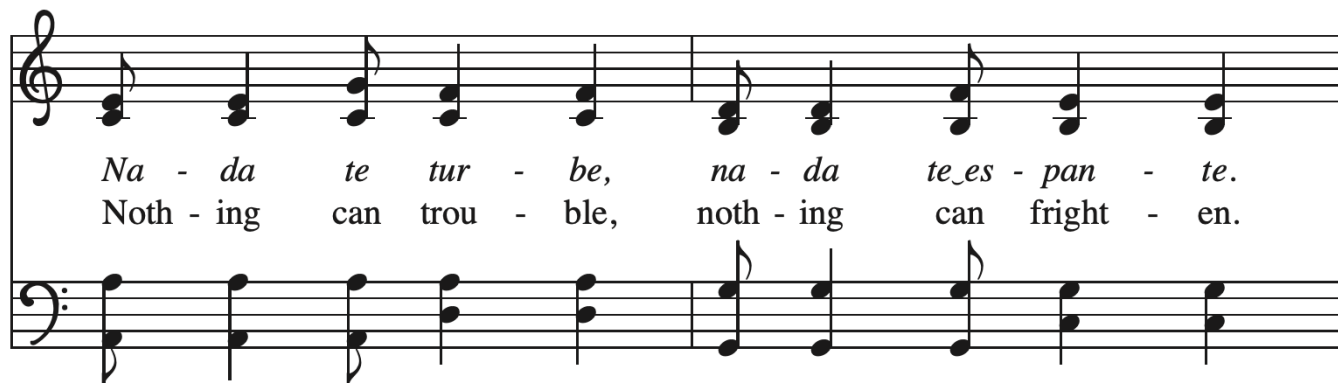
Nothing Can Trouble

Repeat many times.

Lit candles are prayed over in memory of loved ones.

ACS 1033

NADA TE TURBE



Na - da te tur - be, na - da te_es - pan - te.
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.



Quien a Dios tie - ne na-da le fal - ta. Na - da te tur - be,
Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,



na - da te_es - pan - te. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
noth - ing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

Prayer

P O God, majestic and mysterious: Morning and evening, summer and winter, each beginning and every ending is within your great design. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows; make us to marvel at your wisdom and to trust your loving care for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel.

C Amen.

Hymn

He Came Down

ELW 253

HE CAME DOWN

The assembly stands on the last verse for the reading of the Gospel.

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have peace; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
he came down that we may have joy;

Reading

Matthew 1: 18-23

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly may be seated.

Homily

In year A, when we hear the Gospel according to Matthew, the Advent and Christmas readings offer no angelic visitation to Mary, no tender manger scenes, no shepherds watching their flocks by night. Instead, the gospel begins with a recitation of family connections—through the paternal line!—and a stark retelling of events from Joseph’s perspective. What might women contribute to understanding the birth of Jesus as told by Matthew? How might deeper contemplation of Mary and Joseph draw us nearer to the people around us?

In his Christmas sermons, Luther encouraged his congregation to care for the Christ child in their midst. If we could imagine traveling back in time to offer support to Mary, what would we say? How can we offer that kind of unconditional love and care to one another and our neighbors facing unexpected difficulties? Each Advent, we consider anew how to welcome God incarnate. These midweek services are intended to offer possibilities for relationship-building within the congregation, and between the congregation and the community.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

P The Light shines in the darkness.
C **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38

P 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."

The Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

All:

1., 3. My soul pro-claims your
2. You have cast the might-y

great-ness, O God, and my spir-it re-joic-es in
down from their thrones, and up-lift-ed the hum-ble of

you, heart, You have looked with love on your
You have filled the hun-gry with

fine last time

ser-vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.

Great and might-y are you, O Ho-ly One,
Great and might-y are you, O Faith-ful One,

strong is your kind-ness ev-er-more.
strong is your jus-tice strong your love,

How you fa-vor the weak and low-ly one,
As you prom-ised to Sar-ah and A-bra-ham,

hum-bling the proud of heart.
kind-ness for-ev-er more.

Litany and Prayers

A *Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

B

God — of mer - cy, hold us in love.

Leader: **A** **B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:


Leader: **A** **B**

2. For peace and sal - va - tion, we pray to you:

Leader: **A** **B**

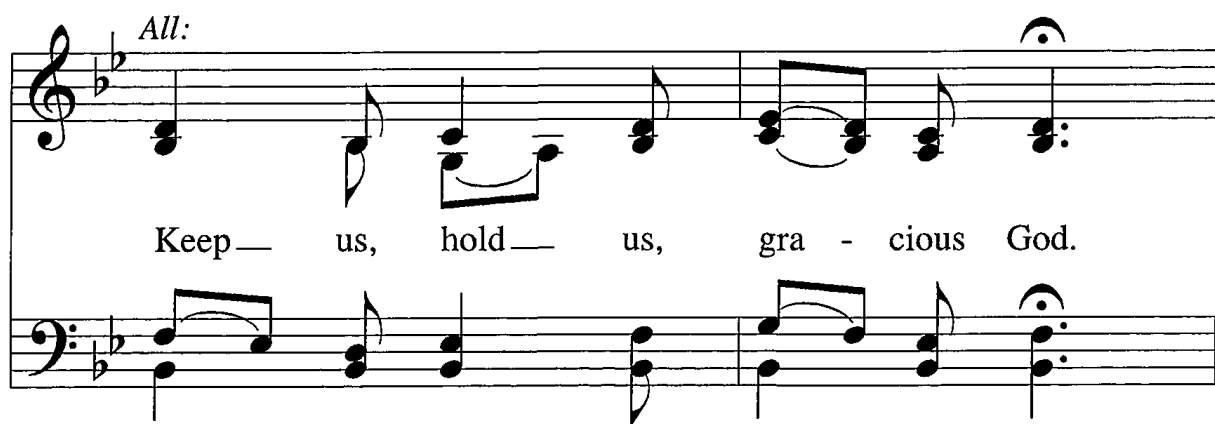
3. For peace be - tween na - tions, for peace be - tween peo - ples:
4. For us who are gath - ered to wor - ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser - vants who live out your gos - pel:
6. For all those who gov - ern, that jus - tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la - bor in ser - vice to oth - ers:
8. Grant weath - er that nour - ish - es all of cre - a - tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan - ger:
10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer - cy:

Leader:



Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

All:



Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

P Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray

C **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.

Final Blessing



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.



May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days.



A - men.



Serving God's People at the Liturgies

Preaching and Presiding

The Rev. Kathleen J. Baker, STM

Pianist

Nicholas P. Werner

The Parish Staff

Kathleen J. Baker, STM, Pastor
Nicholas P. Werner, Director of Music
Beth C. Fine, Church Administrator

Kester T. Sobers III, Pastor Emeritus
Herbert O. Fowler, Cantor Emeritus

The Church Office is open
Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
Phone: (717) 564-0385
Email: goodshepherdpxtang@gmail.com
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Pastor Baker may be reached at home at (717) 213-9443
and by email at goodshepherdpastor@gmail.com

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