

DECEMBER 24, 2023
7:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

THE
NATIVITY
OF OUR
LORD



ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
606 W. 15TH ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS
WWW.SAINTMARTINS.ORG

LOVE, SHARE, & SERVE BOLDLY.

No matter where you find yourself on your faith journey—join us!

Here you have found a church home where believers congregate to encourage each other and grow spiritually in an abundant relationship with the Lord. At St. Martin's, we promote and value an inclusive fellowship. Whether you are young, old, gay, straight, single, married, partnered—from all walks of life, backgrounds, and cultures—we welcome you!

The Holy Spirit gathers us around the means of grace - the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.

Families with small children may enjoy playing with toys on the Prayground rug in the Narthex. The nursery is open for children 0-4 years. The joyful noise of our young ones is always welcome in this space.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex, or you can listen through your smartphone. The ushers are available to help you.

*Notes in italics offer directions about the service. **The people's responses are in bold.***

CAROLS OF WELCOME

CHORALE PRELUDE ON 'SILENT NIGHT'

SAMUEL BARBER

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

LLOYD LARSON

THREE NATIVITY CAROLS

STEPHEN PAULUS

I. THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

II. THIS ENDRIS NIGHT

III. WONDER TIDINGS

FUM, FUM, FUM

CATALONIAN TRADITIONAL

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

ARR. FRED GRAMANN

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PROCESSION OF THE CHOIR

ELW 273

ALL MY HEART AGAIN REJOICES

WARUM SOLLT ICH



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet - est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

WELCOME

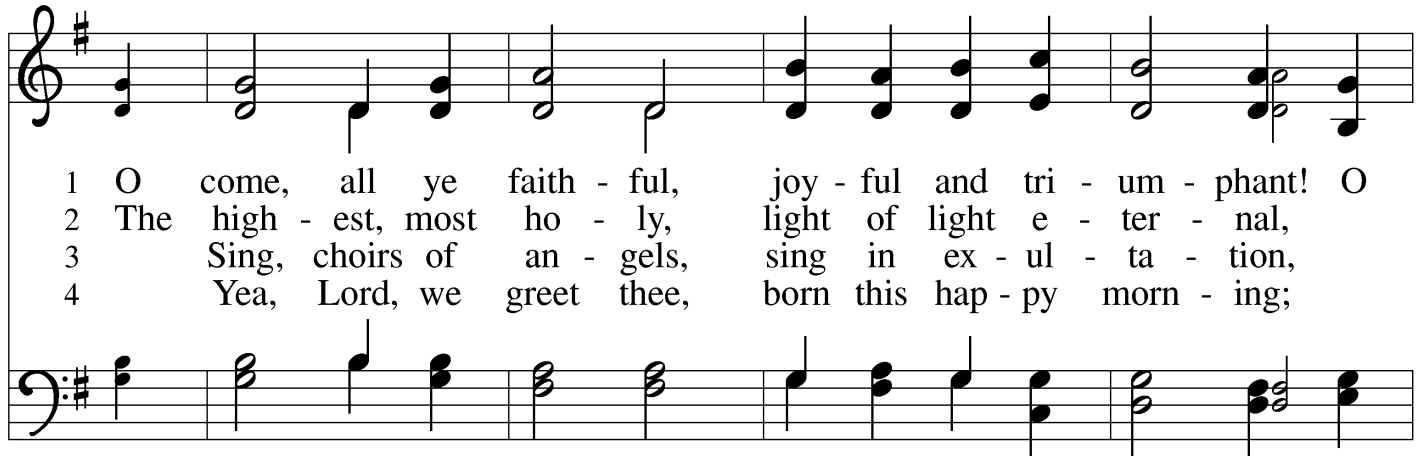
The people stand as they are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW 283

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

ADESTE FIDELES



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!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

The people are seated.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN
JOY TO THE WORLD

VERSES 1,2,4

ELW 267
ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 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
 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
 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.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds
 The Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Verse 1 before the gospel

GLORIA

The people stand as they are able.

Verse 3 after the gospel

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 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.
 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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.^[a]

⁸Now in that same 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, ¹⁹and 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, just as it had been told them.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people are seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

The people stand as they are able.

Prayer cards, which are in the pew pockets, are collected by the ushers during the hymn. Prayer requests may also be sent via email or text message to prayer@saintmartins.org.

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Respond to each petition with: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people greet each other, saying "Peace be with you" or similar words.

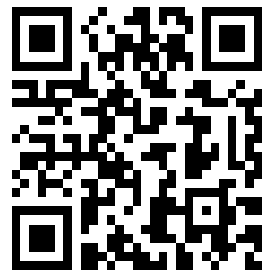
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The people are seated.

St. Martin's and its ministries are supported by our offerings of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. We give now as God has so graciously given to us. To donate, go to saintmartins.org/giving or scan the QR code.



MUSICAL OFFERING

ES IST EIN ROS ENTSPRUNGEN

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS (ARR. JAN SANDSTRÖM)

OFFERING HYMN

ELW 272

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

ES IST EIN ROS

The people stand as they are able.

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might," "ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might," "heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry." and "Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The piano accompaniment features block chords and moving bass lines.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

The musical score is written in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of music, and the second system covers the next two lines. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is ris'n. Christ will come a-gain.

The musical score is written in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command...

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical score for the word 'Amen'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.' are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

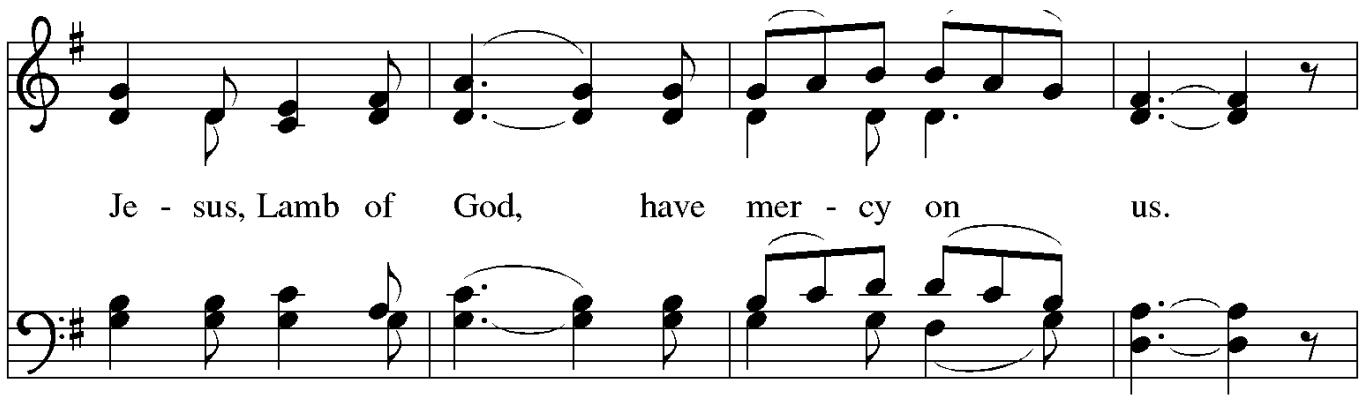
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The people are seated.

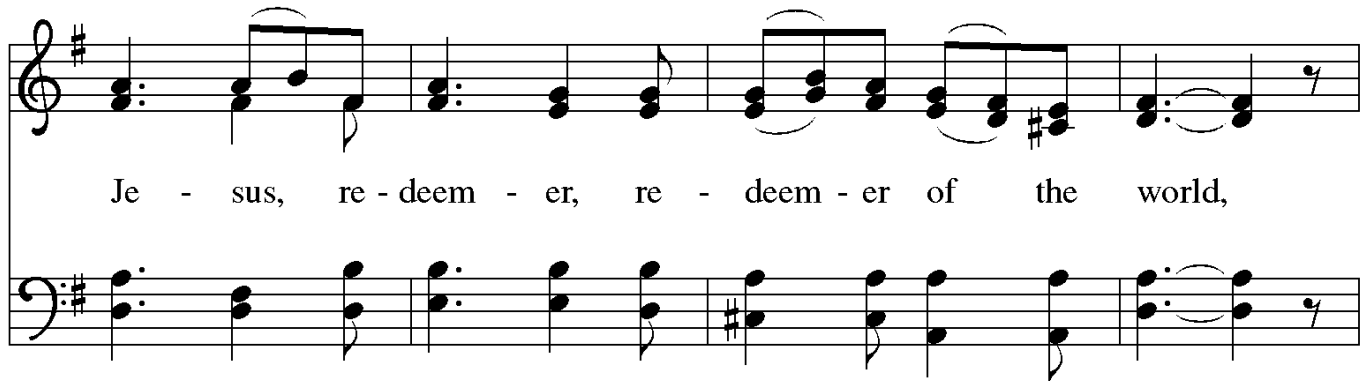
AGNUS DEI



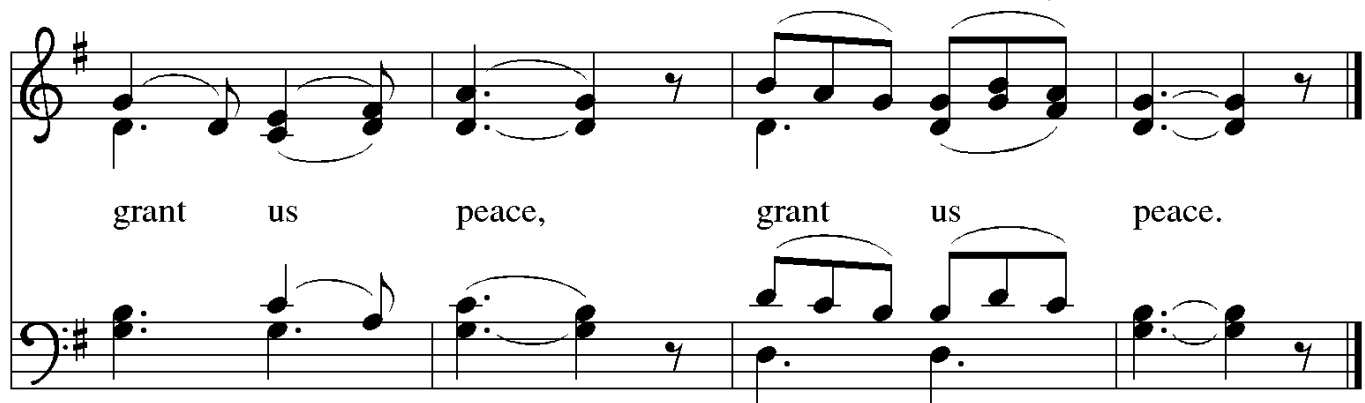
Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

Our communion table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to receive communion

Please come forward to receive the bread, then pick up a cup to receive wine.

Gluten free wafers are available by request and grape juice cups are at the center of the cup tray.

If you prefer to remain in your seat, please pick up a communion cup in the narthex or ask an usher to let the communion assistants know. A Stephen Minister will be in front near the pulpit to offer healing prayer during communion. You are invited to light a prayer candle on the table near the altar.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

GAUDETE

DANIEL JOHNSON (ARR. T. O'BRIEN)

COMMUNION HYMN
THE FIRST NOEL

ELW 300
THE FIRST NOWELL

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the

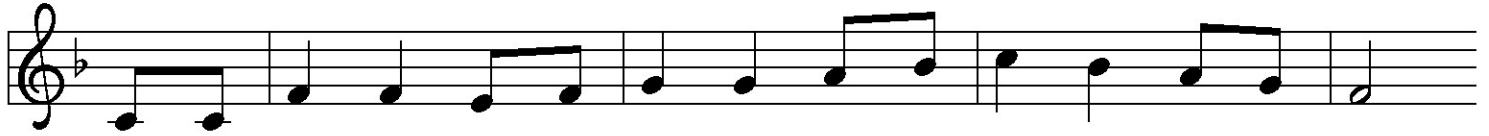
they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -

Refrain
night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night. No - el, No - el, No -

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

TABLE BLESSING

The people stand as they are able.

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you today, tomorrow, and always. **Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS



♩ Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has



been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which



you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:



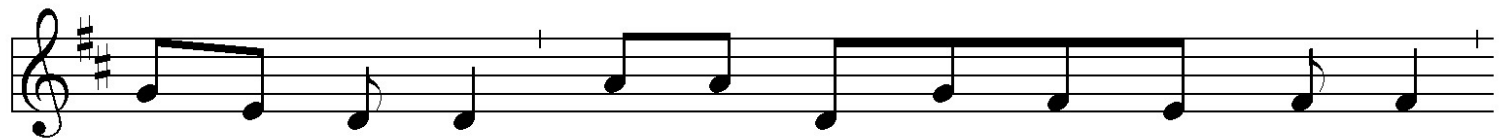
A light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the



glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the



Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,



is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The people stand as they are able.

God bless you and keep you,

+ Jesus grant you grace and truth,

and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,

now and forever.

Amen.

READING

JOHN 1:4-5

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

The candles are lit from the choir in the side aisles. Please apply the unlit candle to the lit candle being careful not to tilt the lit candle.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

STILLE NACHT

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 your 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 your

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

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

VOLUNTARY ON *ANTIOCH* (JOY TO THE WORLD)

EMMA LOU DIEMER

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *preaching/presiding*

Tim Fackler - *assisting minister*

Linda Zander - *lector*

Anna Bergstrom, Carey Henderson - *communion assistants*

Becky Montgomery - *Stephen Minister*

Dr. Tim O'Brien - *Director of Music*

Austin Haller - *Associate Director of Music and Principal Organist*

St. Martin's Ringers

St. Martin's Choir

Jenny Ohrstrom, June Julian - *soprano*

Katherine Altobello O'Brien - *mezzo-soprano*

Gil Zilkha, Anthony Ashley - *bass*

Eric Bittner, Rachel Spencer - *trumpet*

Andrew Fuhrman - *timpani*

Elaine Barber - *harp*

Rebecca Fairweather-Haskins - *oboe*

Mike Kaase - *sound*

Scot Salmon - *video*

Norm Hummell - *ushers*

Pat Lawson - *Welcome Center*

Altar Guild

Nick Lee - *Fellowship Snacks*

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR!

*We invite you to join the St. Martin's family
in offering this prayer throughout 2024:*

O 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

ELW page 317

WORSHIP WITH US

We welcome you to join us on Sunday mornings in 2024:

- 8:45am Nursery open for ages 0-4
- 9:00am Family Worship with Band**
- 9:45am Chapel Gathering for children
- 10:00am Faith Formation for all ages
- 11:00am Traditional Choral Worship**

OUR ST. MARTIN'S VALUES:

We **Worship** God and deepen relationships with one another through Lutheran faith traditions, including engaging liturgy, inspiring music, and lifelong faith formation.

We **Extend** God's inclusive gift of welcome to all people, especially those historically excluded from traditional church communities.

We **Advocate** for justice, righteousness, and mercy with our time, property, and power.

We **Rally** everyone to use our God-given gifts and talents to love, share, and serve all of God's creation boldly.

WEAR reminds us to wear the full armor of God.

SAINT MARTIN'S LEADERSHIP

Rev. Ellen Williams
pastorellen@saintmartins.org

Katherine Lutter
klutter@saintmartins.org

Tim O'Brien
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Kathy Edgar
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Business Manager

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Director of Music

Communications Coordinator

Office Administrator / Volunteer Coordinator

Youth Minister

512.537.8724

Facilities Manager

Saint Martin's Church Council

Stephen Ottmers

Laura Raun Carroll

David Dunn

Jackie Chuter

council2023@saintmartins.org

President

President-Elect

Treasurer

Secretary

At-Large Council Members

Debbie Alkire

Penny Davis

Carolynn Elmshaeuser

Carey Henderson

Norm Hummell

John Santana

School Board

Larry Archer

Anna Bergstrom

LaNelle Deardorf

Terrell Halaska Dunn –*president*

Becky Montgomery

Michael Roth

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Connections: Susan Jensen, Karen Cross

Faith Formation: Heather Santana

Serves: James Gavin

Facilities: Norm Hummell, Bob Daemmrich

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

WWW.SAINTMARTINS.ORG