

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2024

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper... *The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. The purple cup is grape juice. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

setting: W. Held

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

setting: D. Cherwien

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB 380



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 ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt., Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47, Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 34:1–3, 5, 7, 22

- A** I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- C** **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**
- A** Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!
- C** **Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.**
- A** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.
- C** **The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us go to our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

HYMN

"God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB 392 sts. 1, ref



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me
 dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

P Heavenly Father,

C we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to walk always in the paths of righteousness in our thinking, speaking, and acting; we have not loved You completely or our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to live as sisters and brothers of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus, whose birth we celebrate this day. In Your great mercy, forgive and renew us that we may be servants of our eternal king to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P God has heard our plea and has responded to our need. "God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law."

HYMN

"God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB 392 sts. ref. 2-3

2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me
 dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His

authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN

"God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB 392 sts. ref. 4-5



4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

, Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. Composite, Tune: German, Text and tune: Public domain

INTROIT

Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text

- A** When all was still, and it was midnight,
- C** **Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

- A** Why do the nations rage
- C** **and the peoples plot in vain?**

- A** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
- C** **against the LORD and against His anointed.**

- A** He who sits in the heavens laughs;
- C** **the Lord holds them in derision.**

- A** Then He will speak to them in His wrath,
- C** **and terrify them in His fury, saying,**

- A** "As for Me, I have set My King
- G** on Zion, My holy hill."

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** When all was still, and it was midnight,
- G** Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

- P** The heavenly sounds of the angelic host praising God have echoed since the beginning of time. Job relates that when the Lord laid the foundations of the earth, "the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God [angels] shouted for joy" (38:7). The prophet Isaiah writes of a time when he heard heavenly beings sounding out the praises of God (Isaiah 6:24), and the psalmist calls on "everything that has breath" to "praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6). The traditional French carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" includes us among those who have be blessed to hear the song of the angels. Using the Latin phrase "Gloria in excelsis Deo," which means "glory to God in the highest," we add our voices to the glorious sounds of praise as together we sing the next hymn.

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

LSB 368



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: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt., Text and tune: French, Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, on this blessed day, we celebrate our Lord's birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. With the company of song-filled angels in heaven and jubilant people on earth, we welcome Jesus as the Savior of the world and Lord of our hearts, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

- ² The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
 on them has light shined.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation;
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- ⁴ For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

LSB 384



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 O ye 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 - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 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: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; (sts. 1-4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821-77
 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V, Text and tune: Public domain

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

A ¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **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 when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LSB 367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 Δ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
 Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79, Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Song of the Angels

Pastor W. R. Willsea

Stand

NICENE CREED

**☩ I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.
 And in one Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray.

O Dayspring from on high, babe of Bethlehem, we follow in the steps of those who knelt in humble adoration at Your manger so many years ago. Like shepherds of old, we thrill to hear the message that the herald angel brings: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." We, too, go to see this

thing that has happened. The glory shines around us as well. Our hearts grow warm before the meaning of the miracle. God is love, indeed, and there is hope for all who humbly open up their lives to You. You have come to do for us what we are so helpless to do for ourselves. Empower us to fulfill in faithfulness the things that You have given us to do, so that like ancient shepherds, our daily walk may become for us a road of glory and a mission of peace.

As You did with Mary and Joseph, so make Your home in our human lives and hearts. As Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee to Judea, lead us wherever we may help to carry out Your plan for humankind. As Mary brought into this world "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel," so enable us, too, to bring Your peace to desperate people.

Grant that all who see our worship of the newborn babe wonder at the way we keep this day. And O Bethlehem's royal prince, let there be some who, because of us, ponder these things deep within their hearts.

We praise You, the sun of righteousness, who has risen with healing in Your wings; we praise You now and evermore.

C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

arr. L. Smith

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- G** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- G** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; by whose birth as Savior and divine king, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. By Your coming among us, You have turned our sorrow into joy that has no end. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, sovereign Lord, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus, into our flesh to be our Savior. We thank You that He has been born as King and yet as one who comes to serve and bring us true redemption. We bless You for calling us to repentance and inviting us to receive the gifts that He alone gives. Grant that with humble thankfulness we may approach His Table of grace to receive His body and blood and, through them, the priceless gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We ask this in His saving name.

G Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."



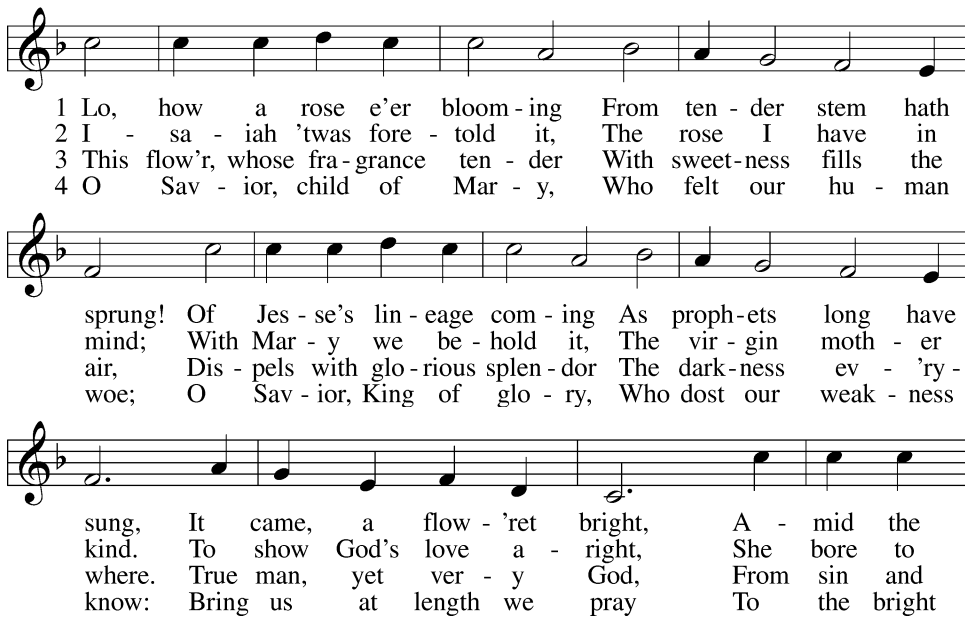
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

LSB 359



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas 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 proph-ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness
 sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text (sts. 1-2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt.; (sts. 1-2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808-59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln Text and tune: Public domain

VOLUNTARY

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
 "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

setting: J. Carter
 D. Wells

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 182



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 be 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.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament and have given us eternal hope in Jesus, Your Son and our king. Joined with singing saints and the whole host of heaven, we praise Your Son at His birth and celebrate with joy the blessings He brings this day and every day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the $\text{I}\ddot{\text{H}}$ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you, now and forevermore.

C Amen.

HYMN

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LSB 388

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.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

arr. R. Thygerson

PARTICIPATING IN THIS SERVICE

Pastor: Richard Willsea

Organist: Patty Barnes

Deaconess: Karen Suter

Acknowledgments

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"Angels We Have Heard on High"- setting: W. Held; tune: Gloria, 18th century French carol

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