



BIBLE SONGS
of **CHRISTMAS**

MIDWEEK TWO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI | 262-781-3520 | office@pilgrimcares.org
Worship services – Wednesday 6:30pm, Sunday 8:00 and 10:30am

The Song of Zechariah

When the Bible was translated into Latin, “Benedictus” was the first word of the song that Zechariah sang after the birth of his son, John the Baptist. The Song of Zechariah is a powerful proclamation of God's faithfulness, salvation, and mercy. Zechariah begins by blessing the Lord for visiting and redeeming his people, highlighting God's action in sending the promised Savior from the house of David.

The song celebrates deliverance from enemies, not only in a political sense but ultimately from sin, death, and the devil. It emphasizes God's mercy and his holy covenant, grounded in his promises and grace.

Zechariah also speaks of John's role as the prophet who will prepare the way for the Lord by preaching repentance and pointing to Jesus. The “Benedictus” ends with a vision of peace and forgiveness, likening Christ's coming to a sunrise that brings light to those in the darkness of a fallen world.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” We know that keeping little children occupied for an entire church service can be a challenge. Don't worry; most of those worshipping around you have been in your shoes at one time. If you feel that you need to take your child out of church at any time, we have a Children's Room to the right as you exit the worship area. The first parking space in front of church is designated for **expectant mothers and families with small children**.

Restrooms are located to your left as you exit the worship area. There are **changing tables in both restrooms**.

LARGE PRINT copies of worship materials are available from the ushers. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to ask an usher.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

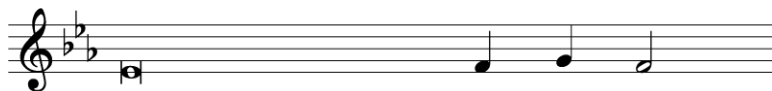
Presiding Minister
Preacher
Organist

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof
Pastor Collin Vanderhoof
Amy Balza

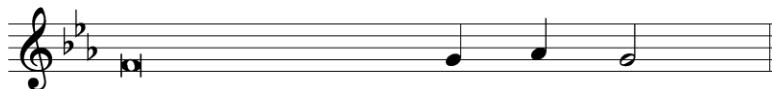
Evening Prayer

Stand

Service of Light



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.

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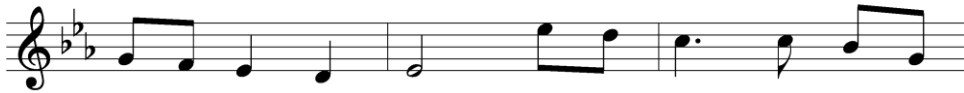
Evening Hymn



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



God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
sun of dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
star of night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



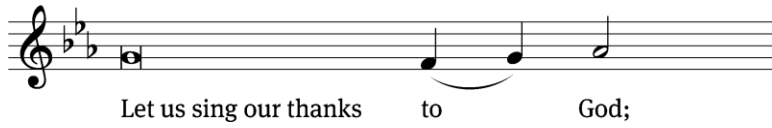
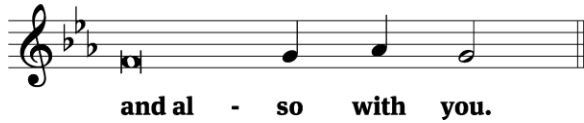
round us we shall raise our songs to you, God of
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing



day - break, God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

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Evening Thanksgiving



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.



Be seated


Psalm 141

Refrain




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.

Verse



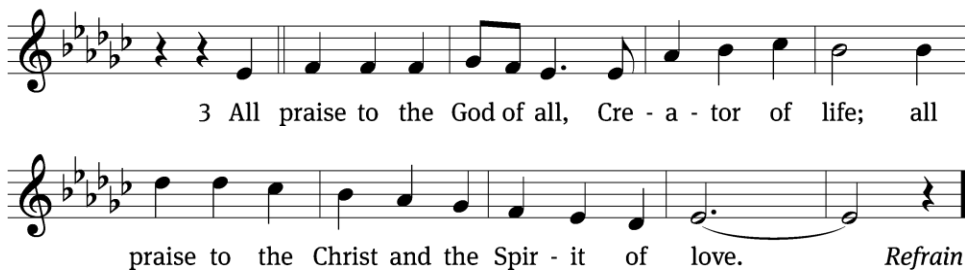
1 O LORD, I call to you, come to me now; O
hear my voice when I cry to you. *Refrain*

Verse



2 Keep watch with - in me, LORD; deep in my heart may the
light of your love be burn - ing bright. *Refrain*

Verse



3 All praise to the God of all, Cre - a - tor of life; all
praise to the Christ and the Spir - it of love. *Refrain*

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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.

In Your Light, We See Light

Psalm 36A

Refrain



Tone



Your love, LORD, reaches to the / heavens,
your faithfulness / to the skies.
Your righteousness is like the highest / mountains,
your justice like the / great deep.

How priceless is your unfailing / love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow / of your wings.
They feast on the abundance / of your house;
you give them drink from your river / of delights. *Refrain*

For with you is the foun- / tain of life;
in your light / we see light.
Continue your love to those who / know you,
your righteousness to the up- / right in heart.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Psalm Prayer

Lord, how much greater are your mercy and righteousness than the pride and boasting of the wicked! Keep us from being misled by those who would tempt us to trust in the things of the world. Instead, let us feast on the abundance of your Word, so that we are always filled to overflowing with your forgiveness and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Anthem

3:30pm, Sung by grades 5 and 6.

“Immanuel”

Reading

Luke 1:57–79

⁵⁷When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

⁶¹They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

⁶²Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

⁶⁷His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—

⁷²to show mercy to our ancestors

and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
⁷⁷to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
⁷⁹to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessed Be the God of Israel

CW 954



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord, you



comes to set us free and rais - es up new
cov - e - nant re - call, the oath once sworn to
will pre - pare the way, to tell God's peo - ple



hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all,
they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine



with a might - y arm God would turn back our
of - fer lives of praise, in ho - li - ness and
forth and nev - er cease to drive a - way the



en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

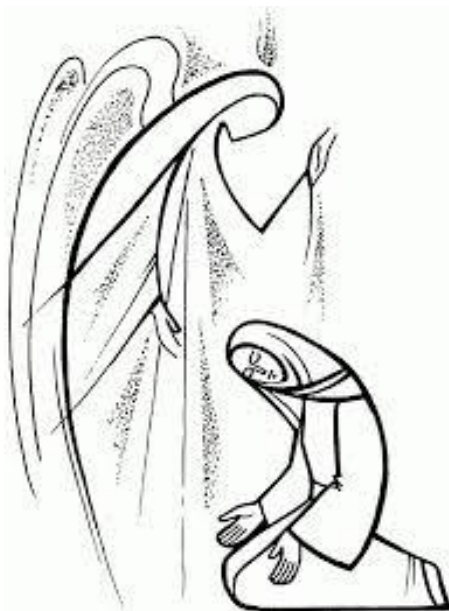
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Sermon

Annunciation

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.”

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Magnificat

1, 3 My soul pro - claims your great - ness, O God, and my
2 You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -
spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. 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, strong is your
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One, strong is your
kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to
weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart. *st. 2*
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more. *st. 3*

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Stand

Litany

Response:

God of mercy, hold us in love.

- 1 In peace, in peace, we pray to you: (Response)
- 2 For peace and salvation, we pray to you: (Response)
- 3 For peace between nations, for peace between peoples: (Response)
- 4 For us who are gathered to worship and praise you: (Response)
- 5 For all of your servants who live out your gospel: (Response)
- 6 For all those who govern, that justice might guide them: (Response)
- 7 For all those who labor in service to others: (Response)
- 8 Grant weather that nourishes all of creation: (Response)
- 9 Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger: (Response)
- 10 For all the beloved who rest in your mercy: (Response)

Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

Keep us, hold us, gracious God.

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

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

Final Blessing



Let us praise the Lord:



thanks be to God.



May God the Fa - ther 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.

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Be seated

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CW 313



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt. Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Offering

Offering boxes are available in the back of church. If you wish to give an electronic offering, you may use the QR code or go to pilgrimcares.org/giving.



Pilgrim Lutheran Church can receive offerings electronically through a secure website. Scan the QR code with your smart phone (you might need to download a free QR scanning app) to be directed to Pilgrim's giving page or visit pilgrimcares.org/giving. Save the check – give online!

Pilgrim's Advent and Christmas

Schedule

December 3, 10, 17 Midweek Advent Services - 3:30pm and 6:30pm
December 14 8:00am and 10:30am Advent Song Service
December 21 10:30am Children’s Christmas Service in the gym
8:00am Divine Service in Church
December 24 4:30pm Lessons & Carols
6:30pm Candlelight Service
December 25 8:15am to 8:45am Hymn Sing
9:00am Christmas Day Festival Service with Holy Communion

No Wednesday Evening Worship on December 31

Pilgrimcares.org

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