



BIBLE SONGS
of **CHRISTMAS**

MIDWEEK THREE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 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 the Angels

When the Bible was translated into Latin, “Gloria in excelsis Deo” were the first words of the song that the angels sang to the shepherds at Jesus’ birth. We sing those words in English in our liturgy: “Glory be to God on high.” The Song of the Angels is a compact, joyful proclamation of God’s glory, mercy, and salvation, centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The “Gloria” is simply praise to God the Father, acknowledging his glory and peace given to those favored by his grace. It has in mind that Christ, God’s only Son, will take away the sin of the world.

In Lutheran theology, the “Gloria” is a response of faith to God’s saving work, rejoicing in justification by grace through faith. It is not just praise but proclamation: Christ has come, and in him, we have peace with God.

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

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof

Preacher

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof

Organist

Amy Balza

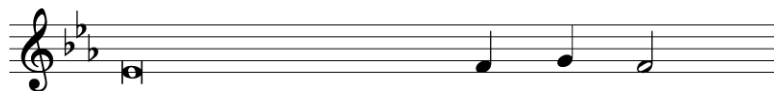
Cantors

Audrey Balza, Madelynn Justman

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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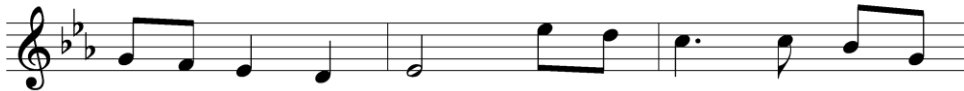
Evening Hymn



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 -



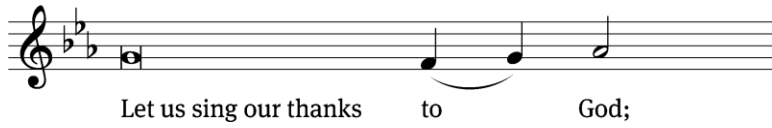
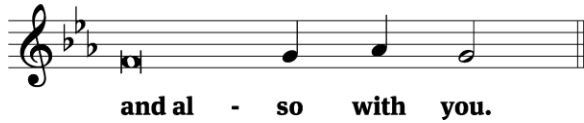
round us we shall raise our songs to you, God of
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing



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



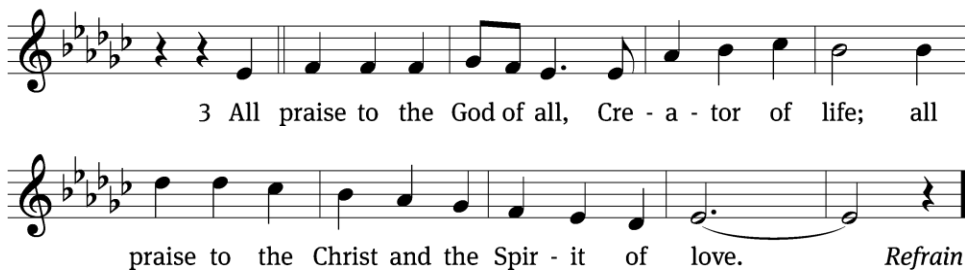
1 O LORD, I call to you, come to me now; O
hear my voice when I cry to you. *Refrain*

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.

Be Exalted, O God

Psalm 57A

3:30pm, The cantors will introduce the refrain.

Refrain



Be ex - alt - ed, O God, a - bove the heav - ens;
let your glo - ry be o - ver all the earth!

Tone



I will take refuge in the shadow / of your wings
until the disaster / has passed.
I cry out to / God Most High,
to God, who vindi- / cates me.
He sends from heaven and / saves me,
God sends forth his love and his / faithfulness. *Refrain*

My heart, O God, is / steadfast,
I will sing and make / music.
Awake, my soul! Awake, / harp and lyre!
I will awak- / en the dawn.
I will praise you, Lord, among the / nations;
I will sing of you among the / peoples.
For great is your love, reaching to the / heavens;
your faithfulness reaches / to the skies.

**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**

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Psalm Prayer

Lord Jesus, when the world around us assaults our souls and tempts us to cower in fear, keep us from retreating into ourselves. Move us instead to sing your praises among the peoples and raise our eyes to heaven where you rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Reading

Luke 2:8–14

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All Glory Be to God Alone

CW 936



1 All glo - ry be to God a - lone, for -
 2 We praise you, God, and you we bless; we
 3 Lord God, our King on heav - en's throne, our
 4 You take the whole world's sin a - way; have
 5 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One; o'er



ev - er - more the high - est One, who did our
 wor - ship you in hum - ble - ness. From day to
 Fa - ther, the Al - might - y One, O Lord, the
 mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray. You take the
 all things you are Lord a - lone. O Je - sus



sin - ful race be - friend and grace and peace to
 day we glo - ri - fy the ev - er - last - ing
 sole - be - got - ten One, Lord Je - sus Christ, the
 whole world's sin a - way; O lis - ten to the
 Christ, we glo - ri - fy you and the Spir - it,



us ex - tend. A - mong man - kind may his good
 God on high. Of your great glo - ry do we
 Fa - ther's Son, true God from all e - ter - ni -
 prayer we say. You sit at God's right hand each
 Lord Most High; with him you ev - er - more shall



will all hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.
 sing, and to your throne our thanks we bring.
 ty, O Lamb of God, to you we flee.
 day; have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 be one in the Fa - ther's maj - es - ty.

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



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.



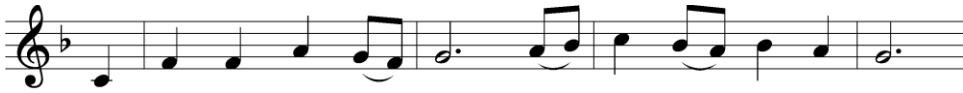
A - men.

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Be seated

The Advent of Our King

CW 309 sts. 1, 3, 5-6



1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly King,
5 Be - fore the dawn - ing day let sin's dark deeds be gone,
6 All glo - ry to the Son, who comes to set us free,



and we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.
nor let a faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
the old self all be put a - way, the new self now put on.
with Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one thro' all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-1776 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, 17Midweek Advent Services - 3:30pm and 6:30pm

December 148:00am and 10:30am Advent Song Service

December 2110:30am Children's Christmas Service in the gym
8:00am Divine Service in Church

December 24 4:30pm Lessons & Carols
6:30pm Candlelight Service

December 258:15am 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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