**December 31, 2023 Lessons & Carols for Christmas: Savior, Christ, Lord – Email/At Home Missal**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on December 31, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship December 31, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858523329?pwd=UUpVdCtkTDB0MWhTVkhjSmxvWjFnUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+12042727920,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**+14388097799,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada
+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada
+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i)

**…………………………………**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31ST 2023 –JANUARY 7TH, 2024:**

**You will find videos for the Christmas services at the following YouTube links:**

**Advent 4-Sunday December 24, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/PhI9UIiUPnM**](https://youtu.be/PhI9UIiUPnM)

**Christmas Eve-Sunday December 24, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/nvoQo7w8xQ4**](https://youtu.be/nvoQo7w8xQ4)

**Christmas Day-Monday December 25, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/ub7qct\_\_fks**](https://youtu.be/ub7qct__fks)

**……………………………………….**

**Coming Events** *(save these dates)* ***bold print - events being held here at St. Peter’s***

1. **Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm**
2. Apr. 5-7 Bishop’s spiritual Retreat for Lay Persons (Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls)

**…………………………………**

**Pastoral Visit:** Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653-4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get to know Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.

**…………………………………**

**Prayer List:** Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, MacKenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan Ken, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne, Sherri, Panagiota.

**…………………………………**

**We need you to help feed our neighbourhood!** The freedom Centre has joined with Cambridge Community Table to offer a meal to our community twice a month on Tuesday night. We need volunteers: Food Preparation, set up, take down, meet and Greet. Every hour you can give once or twice a month. Call for information 519-591-6518 or email **rosemary@freedomcentre.ca**.

**…………………………………**

**Weekly Bible Study:** Resumes again on Wednesday January 17th, 2023 at 10:30 am in the Art Room. Everyone is welcome!

**…………………………………**

To our members and friends who supported **St. Peter's "Wrap up your shopping" Christmas Fundraiser.**

I am confident you will enjoy the Atwood Heritage Summer Sausage, Esta Chocolates, and Snyder's Organic Maple Syrup. Merry Christmas! Alex Black

**…………………………………**

The red poinsettia in the chancel has been placed by Bill and Patricia Hewitt. The white poinsettia has been placed by Barbara Berg. Our sincere thanks for their thoughtfulness and generosity - they will be enjoyed by all!

**…………………………………**

A special thank you to Helga Morrison for being the worship leader today, and to David Hall for filling in for Brad!
**…………………………………**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Guest Organist: David Hall**

**Worship Leader: Helga Morrison**

**Readers: Austin Dykstra, Bonnie Berg, Barb Jones**

**Land Acknowledgement:**

L: With good and grateful hearts we acknowledge that the land upon which we live, work, play, and worship, is the same land upon which the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Attawandaron (or Neutral) peoples first lived, worked, played, and prayed to Creator. Calling the earth upon which they stood, Mother Earth, they cared for the earth as they would care for their mother. Let us take an example from our Indigenous forbears and neighbours, and show gratitude to our Mother Earth. May we be ever mindful of what she has provided for us, even to the next seven generations.

**Welcome Remarks**

**Gathering Carol: ELW 275 ‘Angels, from the Realms of Glory’**

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,

 wing your flight o'er all the earth;

 once you sang creation's story,

 now proclaim Messiah's birth:

 Come and worship, come and worship,

 worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,

 watching o'er your flocks by night,

 God with us is now residing,

 yonder shines the infant light.

 Come and worship, come and worship,

 worship Christ, the newborn king.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,

 brighter visions beam afar;

 seek the great desire of nations,

 you have seen his natal star.

 Come and worship, come and worship,

 worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 All creation, join in praising

 God, the Father, Spirit, Son,

 evermore your voices raising

 to the eternal Three in One.

 Come and worship, come and worship,

 worship Christ, the newborn king.

*(Title: Angels, from the Realms of Glory; Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4; Public Domain*

*Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting:**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord,

the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Prayer of the Day:**

L: Let us pray.

Eternal God, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

**Introduction to the lesson**

*When the angel announces Jesus’ birth to the shepherds, the first name the angel gives Jesus is “saviour.” As we will hear in our second reading, the angel that appears to Joseph also tells him that this baby will be a saviour – that he will save the people from their sins. And this is why this baby is to be named Jesus; a name that literally means “God Saves.”*

*There’s no doubt that our world – that we – need a saviour. For as much as we try, we cannot save ourselves from our sinfulness and selfishness. Jesus alone has the power to heal, to show us the way to God and to conquer the powers of sin and death.*

*And this promise of salvation isn’t just a promise of life after death. This gift of salvation includes a promise for this life: that God is at work in the world to bring justice and hope for all who suffer. And that we, as ones who claim Jesus as our Saviour, are called to be a part of this saving work, making life better for all people of the world.*

*As we hear the first two readings and sing the first two carols, let us rest in the promise of Jesus our Saviour.*

**Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6**

Surely God is my salvation;
 I will trust, and will not be afraid,
 for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might;
 he has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:
 Give thanks to the LORD,
 call on his name;
 make known his deeds among the nations;
 proclaim that his name is exalted.
 Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
 let this be known in all the earth.
 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. *(NRSV)*

Word of God, word of life*.* ***C: Thanks be to God.\****

**ELW # 283 ‘O Come, All Ye Faithful’**

1 O come, all ye faithful,

 joyful and triumphant!

 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

 come and behold him,

 born the king of angels:

***Refrain***

***O come, let us adore him,***

 ***O come, let us adore him,***

 ***O come, let us adore him,***

 ***Christ the Lord!***

2 The highest, most holy,

 light of light eternal,

 born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

 Son of the Father

 now in flesh appearing! ***Refrain***

3 Sing, choirs of angels,

 sing in exultation,

 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

 Glory to God

 in the highest: ***Refrain***

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,

 born this happy morning;

 Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!

 Word of the Father,

 now in flesh appearing: ***Refrain***

*(Title: O Come, All Ye Faithful; Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2; Public Domain; Music: attr. John Francis Wade; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-21**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

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 with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*(NRSV)*

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

**ELW # 272 ‘Lo, How a Rose E-er Blooming’**

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

 from tender stem hath sprung!

 Of Jesse's lineage coming

 as seers of old have sung,

 it came, a flow'r so bright,

 amid the cold of winter,

 when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,

 the rose I have in mind;

 with Mary we behold it,

 the virgin mother kind.

 To show God's love aright,

 she bore to us a Savior,

 when half-spent was the night.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender

 with sweetness fills the air,

 dispels with glorious splendor

 the darkness everywhere.

 True man, yet very God,

 from sin and death he saves us

 and lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,

 who felt our human woe;

 O Savior, king of glory,

 who dost our weakness know:

 bring us at length, we pray,

 to the bright courts of heaven

 and into endless day.

*(Title: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming; Text:**German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4; Public Domain; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Introduction to the lessons**

*The name or title “Christ” comes from the Greek word “Christos” which means “anointed one.” This is a reference to the Old Testament when kings and priests and prophets would be crowned or commissioned or set apart for their work by being anointed with oil.*

*We sometimes joke that Christ is Jesus’ last name, but Christ isn’t actually a name at all. Rather, it’s a title that describes a rank or office (like Mayor or Captain or Chief).*

*For the first Christians, Jesus wasn’t just any Christ, any anointed one. Jesus was THE Christ, with a capital T. Jesus was the Messiah – the long-awaited one who would deliver the people of Israel. As it turns out, Jesus was even more than that. He is the One God has anointed, set apart, and designated as savior and Lord of all the world.*

*As we hear the next two readings and sing the next two carols, let us rest in the promise of Jesus THE Christ.*

**Lesson:** **Isaiah 61:1-3, 11**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
 because the LORD has anointed me;
 he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
 to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim liberty to the captives,
 and release to the prisoners;
 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
 and the day of vengeance of our God;
 to comfort all who mourn;
 to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
 to give them a garland instead of ashes,
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
 the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
 They will be called oaks of righteousness,
 the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations. *(NRSV)*

Word of God, word of life*.* ***C: Thanks be to God.****\**

**ELW # 282 ‘It Came upon the Midnight Clear’**

1 It came upon the midnight clear,

 that glorious song of old,

 from angels bending near the earth

 to touch their harps of gold:

 "Peace on the earth, good will to all,

 from heav'n's all-gracious king."

 The world in solemn stillness lay

 to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come

 with peaceful wings unfurled,

 and still their heav'nly music floats

 o'er all the weary world.

 Above its sad and lowly plains

 they bend on hov'ring wing,

 and ever o'er its babel sounds

 the blessed angels sing.

3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,

 whose forms are bending low,

 who toil along the climbing way

 with painful steps and slow:

 look now, for glad and golden hours

 come swiftly on the wing;

 oh, rest beside the weary road

 and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,

 by prophets seen of old,

 when with the ever-circling years

 shall come the time foretold,

 when peace shall over all the earth

 its ancient splendors fling,

 and all the world give back the song

 which now the angels sing.

 *(Title: It Came upon the Midnight Clear; Text:**Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876; Public Domain; Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900; Public Domain
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**The Holy Gospel according to** **John 1:19-23, 29-34**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

This is John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?”

John confessed (he didn’t deny but confessed), “I’m not the Christ.”

They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

John said, “I’m not.”

“Are you the prophet?”

John answered, “No.”

They asked, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

John replied,

“*I am a voice crying out in the wilderness,*
    *Make the Lord’s path straight,*
    just as the prophet Isaiah said.”

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one about whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.’ Even I didn’t recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel.” John testified, “I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. Even I didn’t recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and testified that this one is God’s Son.” *(CEB)*

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

**ELW # 281 ‘Silent Night, Holy Night’**

1 Silent night, holy night!

 All is calm, all is bright

 round yon virgin mother and child.

 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

 sleep in heavenly peace,

 sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!

 Shepherds quake at the sight;

 glories stream from heaven afar,

 heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!

 Christ, the Savior, is born!

 Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night!

 Son of God, love's pure light

 radiant beams from your holy face,

 with the dawn of redeeming grace,

 Jesus, Lord, at your birth,

 Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*(Title:**Silent Night, Holy Night! Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Public Domain; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Introduction to the lessons**

*Many of us have memorized the Apostles’ Creed, but did you know that the earliest known Christian creed was this simple phrase: “Jesus is Lord.”*

*Like Christ, Lord isn’t a name but a title. It’s a word that describes someone who has*[*authority*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority)*, control, or*[*power*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_%28social_and_political%29)*over others; a master, a chief, or a ruler. It’s a human title that was given to Jesus.*

*Jesus, of course, isn’t just any Lord or ruler. Jesus, the Word made flesh, is God the Lord. The one to whom we offer our lives; the one in whom we put our hope.*

*Living in a democracy, we elect our leaders. But many in our world (and throughout history) have no choice about who their Lord, their master, their ruler is. To proclaim Jesus as Lord is an act of declaring that our primary allegiance is to Jesus. To proclaim Jesus as Lord is to submit to his authority to guide our lives in his way of peace, justice, and love.*

*As we hear the final two readings and sing the next two carols, let us rest in the promise of Jesus our Lord.*

**Lesson:** **Isaiah 6:1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:
 "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
 the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" (NRSV)

Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**\*

**ELW # 269 ‘Once in Royal David’s City’**

1 Once in royal David's city

 stood a lowly cattle shed,

 where a mother laid her baby

 in a manger for his bed:

 Mary was that mother mild,

 Jesus Christ, her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven

 who is God and Lord of all,

 and his shelter was a stable,

 and his cradle was a stall;

 with the poor and meek and lowly,

 lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,

 through his own redeeming love;

 for that child so dear and gentle

 is our Lord in heav'n above;

 and he leads his children on

 to the place where he is gone.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,

 with the oxen standing by,

 we shall see him; but in heaven,

 set at God's right hand on high;

 there his children gather round,

 bright like stars, with glory crowned.

*(Title:**Once in Royal David's City; Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Public Domain; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**The Holy Gospel according to** **Luke 1:26-35**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. (NRSV)

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

**ELW # 279 ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’ *(ST. LOUIS)***

1 O little town of Bethlehem,

 how still we see thee lie!

 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

 the silent stars go by;

 yet in thy dark streets shineth

 the everlasting light.

 The hopes and fears of all the years

 are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,

 and, gathered all above

 while mortals sleep, the angels keep

 their watch of wond'ring love.

 O morning stars, together

 proclaim the holy birth,

 and praises sing to God the king,

 and peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently

 the wondrous gift is giv'n!

 So God imparts to human hearts

 the blessings of his heav'n.

 No ear may hear his coming;

 but, in this world of sin,

 where meek souls will receive him, still

 the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,

 descend to us, we pray;

 cast out our sin, and enter in,

 be born in us today.

 We hear the Christmas angels

 the great glad tidings tell;

 oh, come to us, abide with us,

 our Lord Immanuel!

*(Title:**O Little Town of Bethlehem (ST. LOUIS); Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Public Domain; Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Share the peace of Christ:**

L: Angels said it to startled shepherds,

Jesus said it to frightened followers,

And now these words which come from heaven

are shared to make us whole and make us one.

Peace be with you.

***C: And also with you.*** *\*\*\*\**

*(A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community; Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering Carol: ELW # 296 ‘What Child Is This’ *(verses 1 & 2)***

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,

 on Mary's lap is sleeping?

 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

 while shepherds watch are keeping?

 This, this is Christ the king,

 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

 haste, haste to bring him laud,

 the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate

 where ox and ass are feeding?

 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here

 the silent Word is pleading.

 Nails, spear shall pierce him through,

 the cross be borne for me, for you;

 hail, hail the Word made flesh,

 the babe, the son of Mary!

*(Title:**What Child Is This; Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898; Public Domain; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.; Public Domain*

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**Offering Prayer:**

L: God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

Join our hearts with the song of the angels,

and gather us at your table of celebration.

Strengthen us to share with all the world

the abundance of your grace upon grace,

poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession:**

L: Trusting in God’s good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.***

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God. ***C: Your mercy is great.***

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God. ***C: Your mercy is great.***

Sustain all people who have been waiting for salvation and wholeness (*especially we pray for Linda, Jeff, Sherri, Panagiota, each one of the beloved children on our prayer list, and those we name before you now aloud or silently in our hearts…*). We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God. ***C: Your mercy is great.***

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.***C: Your mercy is great.***

O God of mercy, we gather these prayers into one and offer them to you as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us…

**Lord’s Prayer**

L: 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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

**Blessing:**

L: May we be filled with the wonder of Mary,

the obedience of Joseph,

the joy of the angels,

the eagerness of the shepherds,

and the everlasting peace of Jesus

who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless us and keep us now and forever.

Amen.

**Sending Carol: ELW # 270 ‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’**

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,

 "Glory to the newborn king;

 peace on earth, and mercy mild,

 God and sinners reconciled."

 Joyful, all you nations, rise;

 join the triumph of the skies;

 with angelic hosts proclaim,

 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

***Refrain***

 ***Hark! The herald angels sing,***

 ***"Glory to the newborn king!"***

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,

 Christ, the everlasting Lord,

 late in time behold him come,

 offspring of a virgin's womb.

 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!

 Hail, incarnate deity!

 Pleased as man with us to dwell,

 Jesus, our Emmanuel! ***Refrain***

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!

 Hail the Sun of righteousness!

 Light and life to all he brings,

 ris'n with healing in his wings.

 Mild he lays his glory by,

 born that we no more may die,

 born to raise each child of earth,

 born to give us second birth. ***Refrain***

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**Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

***C: Thanks be to God.***

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