

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2025 ~7:00 pm

Eucharist



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

1845 Cambria Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 + phone: (540) 382-2223

+ Ministers: The People of Our Saviour + Pastor: the Rev. Joel W. Antley +

+ Director of Music: Ethan Stinson +

email: osloffice@oslc-cburg.org + web: <http://www.oslc-cburg.org/>

Find us on Facebook & Instagram

Welcome to Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Our Mission and Vision:

***The Mission of Our Saviour Lutheran Church is to serve God's community through
Worship, Outreach, and Fellowship.***

We are committed to serving God's community, whether that be the worshiping community of OSLC, the Christiansburg and NRV Community, or the Global community. We will accomplish this mission through three focus areas:

Worship - We come together to worship the triune God. We learn about God's Word and learn how to spread that Word to the world.

Outreach - We will spread God's Word by serving the community outside the church walls. We serve through our food ministries, homeless ministry, and any other ministry that fits our passions. Come and be a part of our Outreach.

Fellowship - We love to be together in community and we love engaging our broader community. Come and be a part of the community on Sunday mornings, as well as events like Harvest Festival and other community events.

We Are Church Together

We are what God has made us – people whom God has created by grace to live in union with Jesus Christ and has prepared to live faithful, fruitful lives by the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:8-10). In Jesus Christ, God has reconciled us to God and to each other. As we gather around word and sacraments, this life in Christ is what defines, shapes and guides us as a community of faith, the church.

By God's grace we can and do live confidently and generously in this community of faith and in service of others, amid the mysteries and paradoxes of this life in Christ – including our human limitations and failings, and the ambiguities, uncertainties and suffering that we experience.

About the Bulletin

In the Lutheran tradition we worship in a format of a formal Liturgy. This is a Greek word meaning, "the work of the people."

We worship, pray, sing, share Christ's table, share our short comings, comfort each other in mourning, and shout our praises together gathered as one in the community found in Christ.

Part of this worship together means a lot of people doing the work in different ways; ushers, choir, reading the lessons, lighting the candles, assisting with communion, etc. The liturgy also includes **bolded portions** of text for the community, that's you, to respond and contribute to the voice of the congregation together.

Have you let us know you're here?

We ask that you please sign the guest book in our narthex beside our information desk so that we can thank you for being our guest.

Interested in talking more about OSLC or joining OSLC?

Please speak with Pastor Joel directly or send him an email to set up a time to talk. He is always happy to get a cup of coffee and chat about life, answer questions, or give more information on membership at OSLC.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

the assembly reflects quietly and prepares for worship

GATHERING

The assembly rises in body or Spirit.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another,

God of New Creation,

We confess that we are captive to the darkness that envelopes this world. We have sought our own wants and desires over bearing your light to a world in need. We have not loved fully. We have not given fully. Sin has won the day. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to your blessed nativity, so that we may bear witness to your Son who brings light to our lives and hope to our dry bones. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, do not be afraid for I bring you good news of great joy! Our Lord is preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child who makes all things new! In the radiance of the nativity † we are released from the bondage of sin and death!

Glory to God in the highest heaven! Let there be peace and goodwill among all God's people!

The service continues with gathering song.



GATHERING HYMN: ELW 283 - O Come, All Ye Faithful



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,



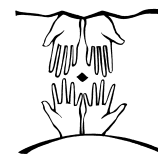
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

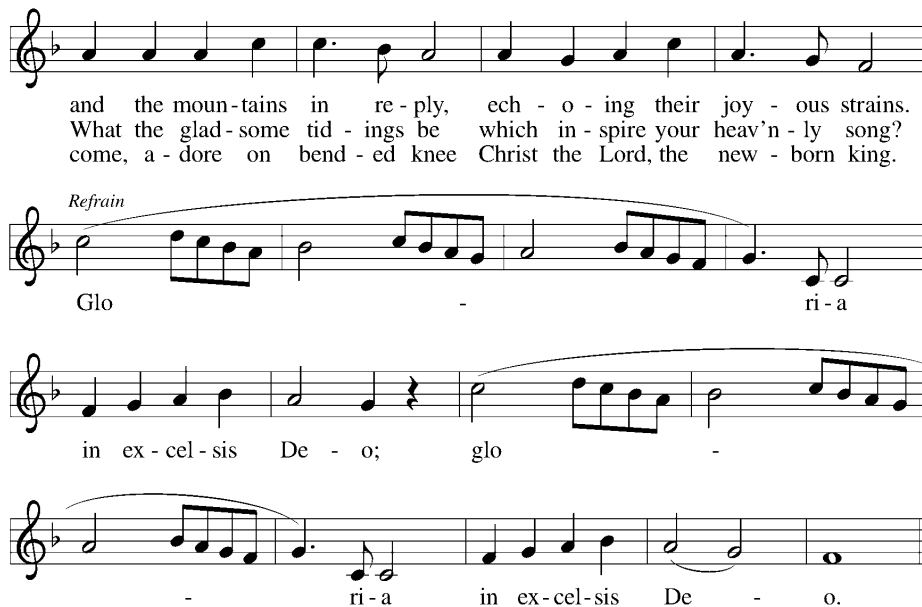
And also with you.



CANTICLE of PRAISE: Angels We Have Heard on High



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;



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF ADVENT HOPE

If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners. Amen. — Martin Luther

Lighting of the Advent Candle — O come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
 embracing all things far and nigh:
 in strength and beauty come and stay;
 teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
 as to your tribes on Sinai's height
 in ancient times you gave the law
 in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
 your own from Satan's tyranny;
 from depths of hell your people save,
 and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.

Refrain

the assembly is seated

WORD

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 exultation;
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.

⁷Great will be his authority,
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.

PSALMODY: Psalm 96

¹Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.

²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord.**

⁹Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The | Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peo- | ples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

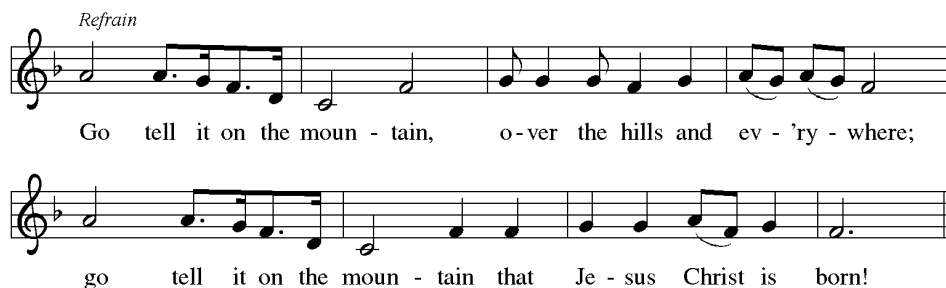
¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus 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 the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

the assembly rises in body or spirit for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.

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.

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!"

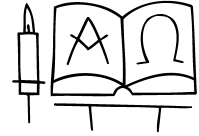
[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶

So 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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

the assembly is seated



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!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON - Pastor Joel Antley

The assembly reflects on the Word

the assembly rises in body or spirit

HYMN of the DAY: ELW 279 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

THE NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling (*especially*). God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Rejoice with us as we give thanks and praise for the people, ministries, communities, and gifts we have been blessed with here at OSLC (**especially**). God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Hear us as we bring to you now our collective thoughts and prayers, those things most dear to us and situations most near to us out loud or in the silence of our hearts. (**silence for personal prayer**). God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly sits.



MEAL

OFFERING

the assembly rises in body or spirit as the offering is brought forward

OFFERTORY SONG: ELW 270 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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,



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

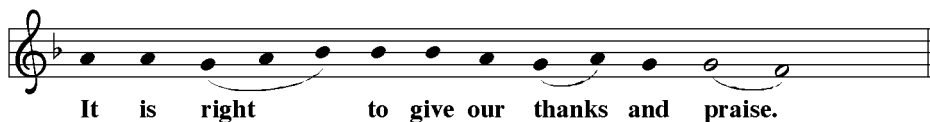
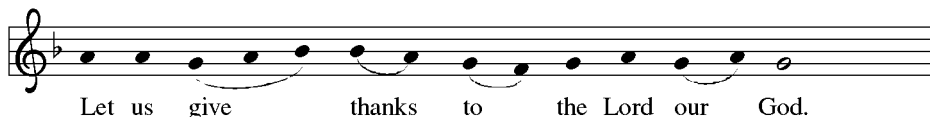
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together...

**God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may
rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(Melody: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Hosts, by heav'n adored!

Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!

Hail, Hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh!

In the name of God the King Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail, Hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to you!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.



Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

FRACTION

Come. There is a place for you at the table of God. Receive the food that does not perish, a taste of eternal life. **Amen.**

the assembly is seated and meditates, pondering the mystery of salvation

the pastor first communes those joining worship online:

I invite you to eat the bread together now and know that the body of Christ is given for you.

I invite you now to drink together and know that the blood of Christ is shed for you.

DISTRIBUTION of HOLY COMMUNION

The LORD's Table is open to all.

Persons who desire to receive the Real Presence of Christ in, with and under the forms of bread and wine, are invited to partake in the Sacrament.

At the usher's direction, each row will come forward to receive the bread from the Pastor, who will be stationed in the middle. To receive the wine or grape juice, go back toward the side where you were seated. The pastor will bring communion to anyone who cannot come forward to the altar.

We all share a common loaf of gluten free bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray.

LAMB of GOD

(Melody: *The First Noel*)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, Lamb of God you take a -

way — the sins of the world, Lamb of God you take a - way the sins of the world O —

grant us your peace — O grant us your peace.

The assembly may sing during communion.

COMMUNION HYMNS: (please use the red ELW hymnal in the pew)

ELW 300—The First Noel

ELW 277 - Away in a Manger

BLESSING

the assembly rises in body or spirit

The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

AMEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together...

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

the assembly lights individual candles, holding lighted candles upright

ELW 281 - Silent Night



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
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,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
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,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
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

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

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

AMEN.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 267 - Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
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
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
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
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today's poinsettias are presented to the glory of God,

Lessons and Carols Worship:

Sunday, December 28 at 10am.

Epiphany Worship:

Sunday, January 4, at 4pm

Please join us for worship Sundays at 10am

Pastor Antley is available Monday-Thursday; to schedule a time to meet with him, please call the church office (540-382-2223) or email oslcpastor@oslc-cburg.org.
For emergency pastoral care, please use the following number: (540) 299-1758.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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