A close-up photograph of two Christmas bells. One bell is gold and the other is white, both featuring a keyhole-shaped cutout and a snowflake pattern. They are resting on a sheet of musical notation. A sprig of green pine branches is visible in the top right corner.

Lessons & Carols

First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025

Gathering

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo

Dupré

(Please stand)

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. [☩] You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn

289 Angels We Have Heard on High Stanzas 1 & 2

Gloria

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Lessons & Carols

(Remain seated until lesson 7)

After each Lesson is read,

L: The word of the Lord,

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Lesson 1 Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

(God creates light and separates light from darkness)

Hymn 269 (Stanzas 1, 2)

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Lesson 2 Micah 5:2-5a

(The king will come from Bethlehem)

Hymn 279 (Stanzas 1, 2)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Lesson 3 Luke 1:26-35, 38

(The annunciation to Mary)

Hymn 270 (Stanzas 1, 2)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Lesson 4 Matthew 1:18-25

(The birth of Jesus)

Hymn 277 (Stanzas 1, 2)

Away in a Manger

Away in a Manger

Lesson 5 Luke 2:8-20

(The shepherds go to see the Savior)

Hymn 300 (Stanzas 1, 2)

The First Noel

The First Nowell

Lesson 6 Matthew 2:1-11

(The magi follow the star)

Hymn We Three Kings of Orient Are (Stanzas 1, 2)

Three Kings of Orient



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Lesson 7 John 1:1-14

(The mystery of the incarnation)

Hymn 283 (Stanzas 1, 2)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

(Please stand)

Responsive Prayer

L: Glory to God in the highest,
C: and peace to God's people on earth.
L: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.
L: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.
L: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.
L: God of all, we offer to you gifts you have graciously given us. Use these gifts to bring hope and healing to your world.
C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

We Receive God's Gifts



Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Anthem

Mary Did You Know

Greene/Lowry

(Please stand)

Presentation of Gifts

Offertory Hymn

296 What Child is This (Stanza 1)

Greensleeves

Offertory Prayer

L: 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.

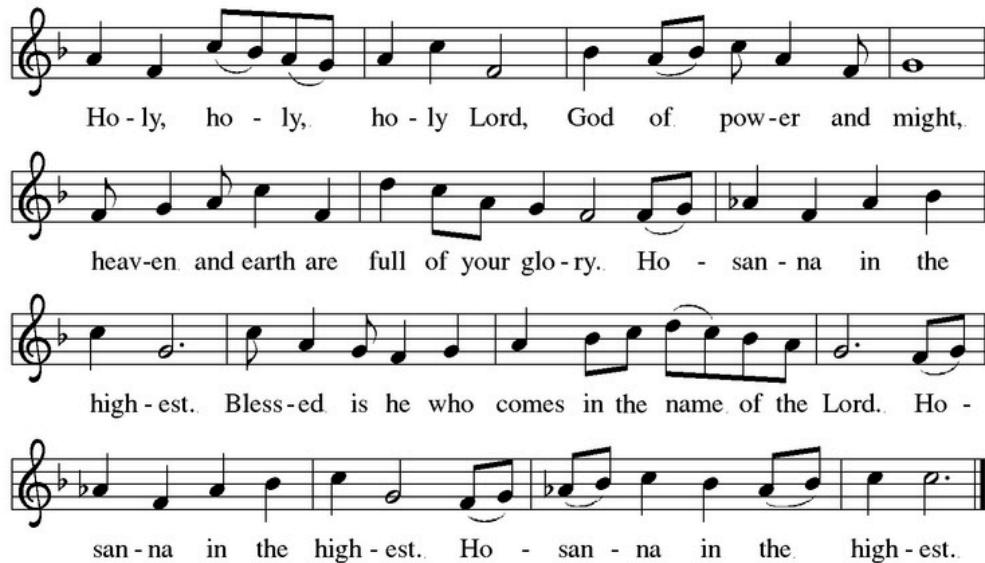
C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: Our God is a good God, Amen!

C: Amen!

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed ...
Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

OR

Our Father, who is of heaven,
Holy is your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
and deliver us from evil
For yours is the kingdom
And the power, and the glory
now and forever, Amen.

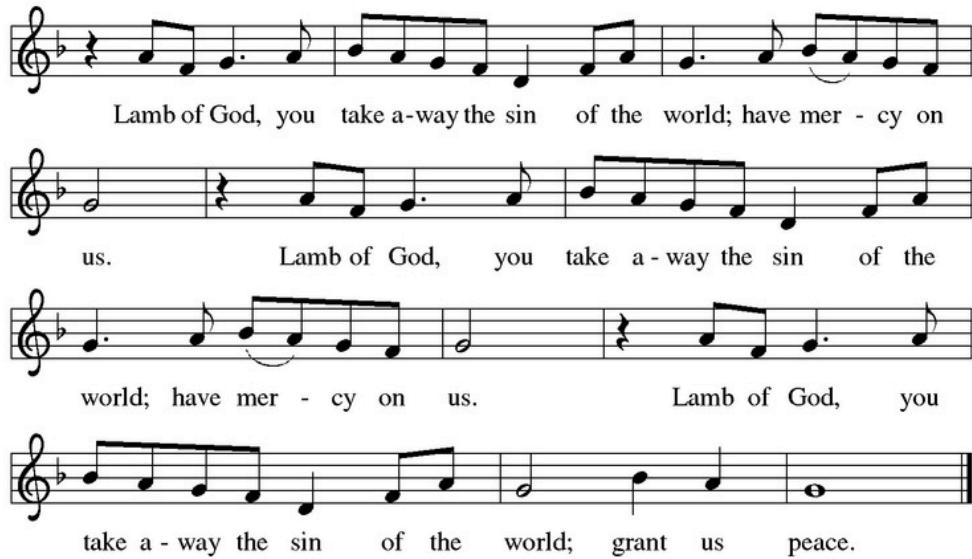
Communion

Come to the Table-- Everyone's Invited!

Holy Communion is a celebration of Christ's love, shared through His body and blood. If you're hungry for His presence, this meal is for you! We commune by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into wine or grape juice. Need grape juice or gluten-free options? No problem—the assistant will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the assistant know if your child will be receiving Communion or would prefer a special blessing. We're so glad you're here—let's share this joyful moment together!

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



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

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns

288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
295 Of the Father's Love Begotten

In Dulci Jubilo
Divinum Mysterium

(Please stand)

The Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.
C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L: Let us pray together,

C: **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.**

Sending

Benediction

P: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C: **Praise God, all creatures here below!**

P: You are the shepherds telling the story.

C: **We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

P: You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C: **We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

P: You are the angels announcing peace.

C: **We live with joy and go now in peace.**

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Godspeed: With Love, We Send You

Closing Hymn

290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

Dismissal

L: Glory to God in the highest! And peace to God's people on earth! Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Noel: Where are these happy shepherds going?

Balbastre