

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church

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Pastor Sue Beadle

Neil McLaughlin, Choir Director
Deacon Bonnie Vize, Organist

December 24, 2023 - Christmas Eve

PRELUDE -Organ Music of the Season

CLC Bell Ringers "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Tucker

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this holiest of nights,
we come, joining the shepherds
who are stunned by wonder.

On this most silent night,
we come with our hopes and dreams
joining those of Mary and Joseph.

On this night of carols and candlelight, we come,
our joyful songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #283 - "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (page 7)

PASTORAL 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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us come before God, whose endless love invites us to look deep within our souls.

God of light, **we are frightened by what you might expect of us if we get too close to the manger. Many things vie for our attention away from this holy place. The things we want have led us into comfortable ruts, often ignoring our faith. O God, teach us what salvation is all about. Heal the emptiness that causes us to have misplaced loyalties and distorted dreams. Forgive us, heal us, and strengthen us for all that you call us to do and to be.**

Silence for reflection

The child of Bethlehem is our Wonderful Counselor whose life points us to the paths of true life and love. The truth is this: In Jesus our Savior, God forgives us all our sins!
To God alone be the glory!

Let us pray:

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given. Lord, we would be silent now, and expectant, that we may receive the gift we need, so we may become the gift others need. In the name of our Savior, Jesus, the greatest gift born this night. Amen.

BELL QUARTET "Oh Holy Night"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HEARING AND SINGING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

READING - Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For 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. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, 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.

HYMN #274 - "On Christmas Night" (page 8)

READING - Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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 for them in the inn.

HYMN #275- "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (page 8)

READING - Luke 2:8-15

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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!" ¹⁵ When 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."

HYMN #270 - "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (page 9)

READING - Luke 2:16-20

¹⁶So 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. ¹⁹But 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, as it had been told them.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM - "By Candlelight" - by Schram

SERMON

SERMON HYMN #277 - "Away in a Manger" (page 9)

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING - *If you missed dropping your offering off in the plate when you arrived, there will be another plate by the ushers to leave your offering as you depart. Thank you for your support.*

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering around the table as we celebrate the birth of new life, we remember so many stories shared around tables; tables where bread is broken and cup is poured out, where families gather and generations share, where stories are remembered, refined, reshaped.

Gathering around the table on this holy night, we remember the story of the sacred daring to share our life, the story of the holy donning human flesh and dwelling among us, a story that is at once both heavenly and earthly.

Gathering around the table on this Christmas night, we break the bread and remember the paradox that it is in our brokenness that we become whole; we fill this cup and remember the abundance discovered in each new sharing of our sacred stories.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Together, around the table, we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the Spirit rising in our midst indeed, in one another.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Let us pray for God's kingdom to come here, now and forever:

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.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the Lord's Supper, for all is now ready.

SHARING THE MEAL

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or a Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We do ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. If you require gluten free hosts, please say "no gluten" when you approach the person sharing the host. The center rings of the trays provided contain grape juice for those desiring it. The Common Cup is also available. Cups may be returned to the Acolytes' baskets. Children may come forward for a blessing or to receive Communion if they have been through instruction in this or another church. If you would like the sacraments brought to you, please let the usher know. Welcome!

COMMUNION HYMNS: #279 - "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (page 10)
 #289 - "Angels We Have Heard on High" (page 11)
 #300 - "The First Noel" (page 12)

LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLES (*Safety Note: when passing on your candle flame, please hold your lit candle straight and upright. Let the other unlit candle tilt in to receive the flame*)

HYMN #281 - "Silent Night, Holy Night!" (page 13)

BENEDICTION

HYMN #267 - "Joy to the World" (page 14)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the newborn King.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "The Hallelujah Chorus" - Handel



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Thank You!

Thank you to all our CLC Musicians, our Senior Choir, CLC Bell Choir, and Bell Quartet, (Nora Geach, Anne Emerson, Izzy Emerson, and Pam Hamele) for sharing all their hard work.

*Pastor Sue, along with the staff at Christ Lutheran Church,
would like to extend their wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a
Blessed New Year!!*

Serving you this evening in
Christ's love:

Ushers

3:00 pm
Team Campbell
5:00 pm
Team Paulson
7:00
Team Blau

Readers

3:00 pm
Tim Thompson
5:00 pm
Gus Knitt
7:00 pm
Jeff Gaffney

Communion Helper

3:00 pm
Team Ursin
5:00 pm
Team Knitt
7:00 pm
Team Emerson

Acolytes

3:00 pm
Brinley Schwenn
Leighton Vieau
5:00 pm
Marshall Paulson
Monroe Paulson
7:00 pm
Keegan Little
Maddy Gaffney

Calendar-Week of December 24, 2023
Sun., December 24

Mon., December 25



Merry Christmas!

Sun., December 31

9:00 am Worship Service

Blood Drive

We will be hosting this year's blood drive Wednesday, December 27th, from noon - 5pm at Manthe Paulson Farm's shop (4083 Manthe Road). Appointments preferred.

Feel free to contact Tracy Paulson at tlmanthe@yahoo.com or 608-279-9650 to set up an appointment.

We will be looking for volunteers and possibly food donations again as well.

Help save lives!



**Donate blood
at our
upcoming
blood drive!**

For Sale

For sale, contact: The Office 608-846-4718 or David Erickson 608-513-9137.

Lutefisk - in 5lb bags, \$7 per pound, \$35 per bag

Lefse - Bulk bags \$14/bag - Small bags \$3/bag

If you ordered a poinsettia plant, you may take it home following the 7pm service tonight. **Thank you for helping to make our sanctuary so beautiful!**

In Memory Of

Erin & Brian Alft	Family Members who have passed
Marlene Alsmo	Ken Alsmo
Rachel Anderson	Robert Anderson, Susan Anderson
Norma Bowen	Bowen, Draves, & Hackl Families
Randy and Beth Brining	Eugene & Myra Heldt
Tim and Carol Brommer	Elroy & Betty Brommer
	Alton & Marion Steinke
Craig & Deb Bursaw	Family & Friends watching over us
Linda Capener	My Parents
Anne & Jim Emerson	Dick & Molly Emerson
David & Beth Erickson	Our Parents: Bob & Leona Symons
	Harold & Alice Erickson
Pam Hamele	Mark Hamele,
	Frank & Katie Bradley
Don & Margaret Hoffman	Our Loved Ones who have gone to
	To their Heavenly Home
Gus Knitt	Our Parents
Harley & Sandy Legried	Ron Schwenke, Ila Legried,
	Lloyd & Anna Marie Legried
Dick & Connie Leonard	Tonya Leonard-Anderson
Lockman & Wolff Families	David & Erma Carman
	Emil & Calme Wolff
David & Betty Lund	Our Parents: Mr & Mrs B. G. Lund
	Mr & Mrs C. M. Oberling
Alice McPeck	Leroy, Husband, Dad & Grandpa
Julie Lassa & John Moe	Chris Lassa & Don Moe
Stan & Cathy Nelson	Our Parents: Martin & Lena Vick
	Melford & Valborg Nelson
Pedersen Family	Don and Ethel Hahn
Gordon Peterson	Alice Peterson & David Peterson
Greg, Phillip, Vint & Donna Quamme	Bert & Phyllis Quamme
Ron & Loletia Rear	Kelly Rear
Larry Sobyak	Lois Sobyak
Richard and Shirley Stronach	Our Parents
Yvonne Swanson	My Husband Larry
Mark & Susan Townsend	Beverly Townsend



In Honor of

Randy and Beth Brining	Don and Marlene Brining
Bob & Jane Henze	Kane, Kaia & Lily
Eric & Lori Kvalheim	Kari Little
Kyle Kvalheim	Kari Little
Dan and Kathy Paulson	Our Children and Grandchildren
Gregg and Janice Tipple	Our Parents

Altar Decoration Donations

Lorena Evarts	Feldman Family	Connie Nelson	Barbara Strade
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PROCESSIONAL HYMN #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

HYMN #274 - "On Christmas Night"



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels

an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which

hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est

mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

HYMN #275- "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"



1 An-gels, from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a-bid-ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa-ges, leave your con-tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi-sions beam a-far;
 4 All cre-a-tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa-ther, Spir-it, Son,

once you sang cre-a-tion's sto-ry, now pro-claim Mes-si-ah's birth:
 God with us is now re-sid-ing, yon-der shines the in-fant light.
 seek the great de-sire of na-tions, you have seen his na-tal star.
 ev-er-more your voic-es rais-ing to the e-ter-nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

HYMN #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,

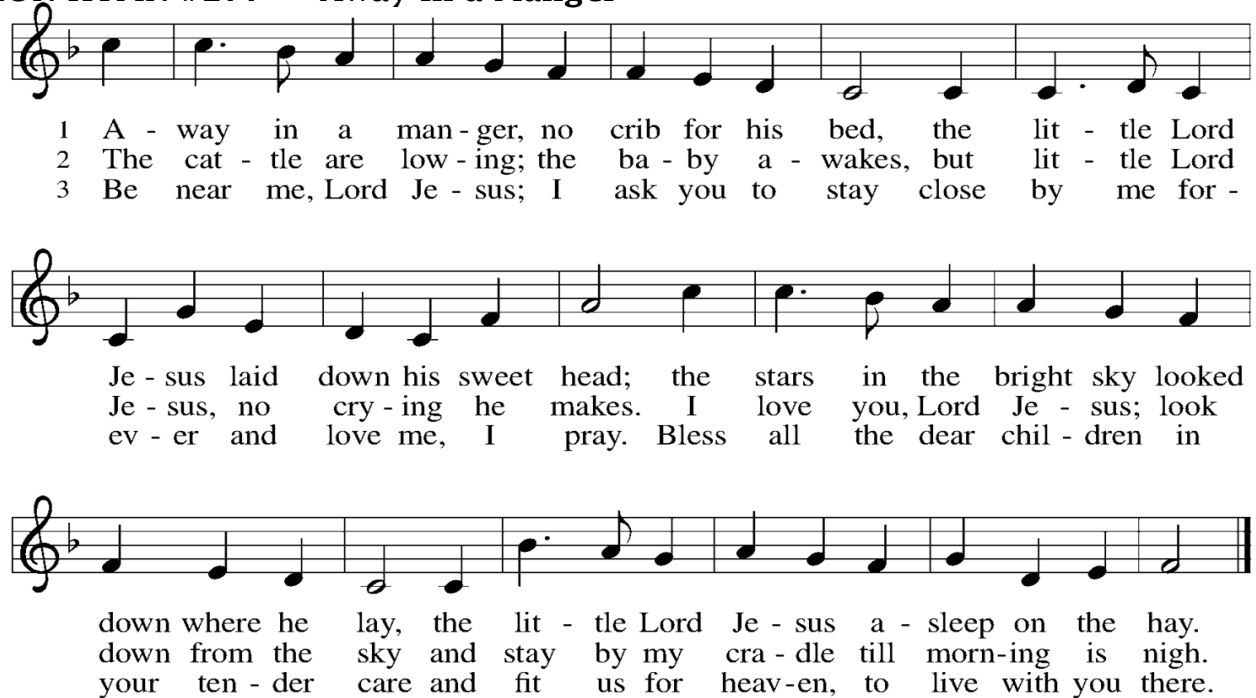
with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

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

SERMON HYMN #277 - "Away in a Manger"



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

COMMUNION HYMN #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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

COMMUNION HYMN #289 - "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;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



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

COMMUNION HYMN #300 - "The First Noel"



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

HYMN #281 - "Silent Night, Holy 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,



Hold - er 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

HYMN #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

