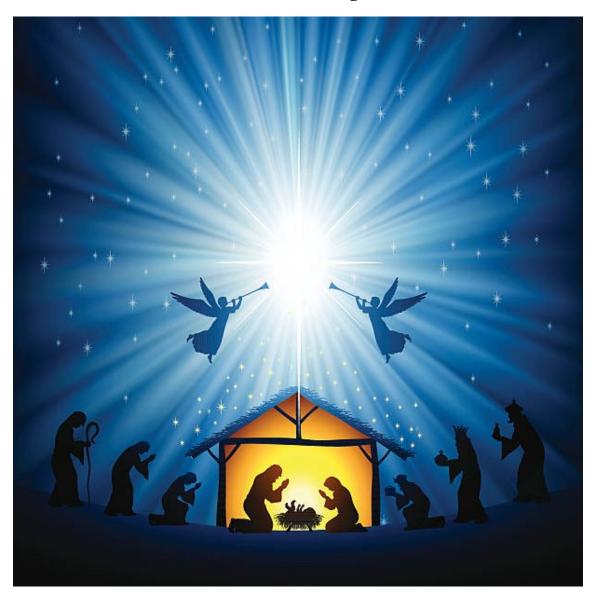
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas

7:30 PM Candlelight Worship Service • December 24, 2023 ELW Setting 3



In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Welcome members and guests to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex; or, if you are online during our worship service, drop us a line to say hello or that you and your family are attending, so that we know you have joined us for worship. For those who come in person, please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information about you. Worship service on Sunday mornings during the summer is at 10:00 A.M. and also on livestream.

A nursery room is available during the service. The nursery is located off the hallway on the Huntington Avenue side of the church building. At this time, there are no nursery attendants. We also have "activity binders" available for older children to enjoy during the service. Please ask an usher about using one.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

COD'S AMAZING GRACE

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607 (757) 245-7861 – http://trinitylutheran-nn.com Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

REV. TINA MELUSKY — Pastor (tina.melusky@gmail.com)
GEOFFREY BELL — Director of Music Ministries (music@trinitynn.org)
SHARON MATHISON — Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)
CAROL BESSOM — Treasurer (cbessom@trinitynn.com)
THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN — Ministers of the Word

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS: http://facebook.com/TrinityNN
TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE: http://trinitynn.org

PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm;
Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm
Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in.

Pastor's Cell: (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

PRELUDE

See program list in back of bulletin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

GATHERING

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.
We purture conflict and build barriers

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In \pm Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

ELW 269

IRBY

v. 1, Kelly Murphy, solo; v. 2-4, All

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

O Come, all Ye Faithful

ELW 283

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We have Heard on High

ELW 289

GLORIA

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

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.

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.

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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God

The assembly is seated.

HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear CAROL

ELW 282

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.

Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our

Savior's final appearance.

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

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

Of the Father's Love Begotten (stanzas 1-3)
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

ELW 295

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

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to

you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

GOSPEL PROCESSION

Of the Father's Love Begotten (stanzas 4-5)
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

ELW 295

SERMON Pastor Tina

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Christmas Night

ELW 274

SUSSEX CAROL

NICENE CREED

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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Star Carol

John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies; Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star shining bright in the sky this Christmas Night! Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory, Bear the news with its message of good cheer: "Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us, Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!"

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep. Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

Let us all pay our homage at the manger, Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night; Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

ELW 270

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance,

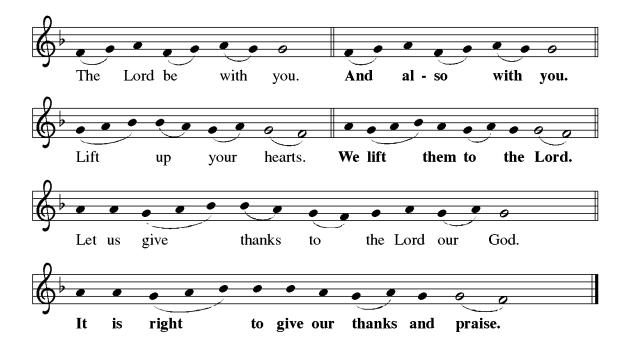
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

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.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

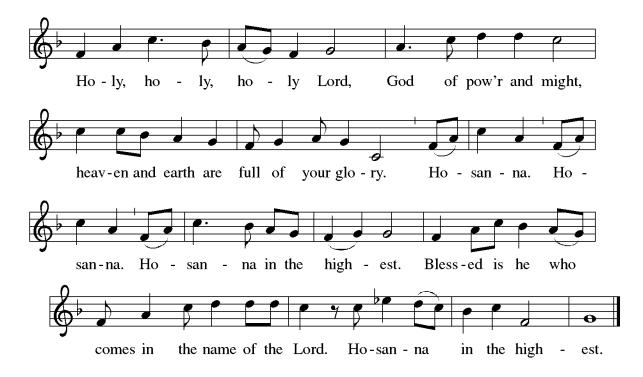


PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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:



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.

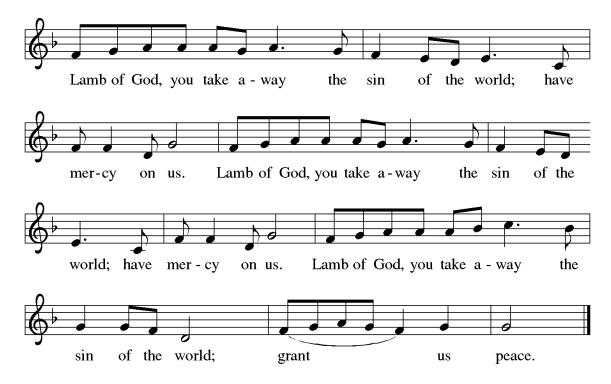
Come, Holy Spirit.

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

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.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION

Communion will be held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a communion cup with wine from the outside edge of the tray or a grape juice cup from the center of the tray. Recycle baskets are located outside of the sanctuary doors for your plastic cups.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

All is Well Arr. Ronn Huff

All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice! For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light. Sing alle, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth. Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger. Sing alle, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia! All is well!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

ST. LOUIS

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

†† Ushers will come to light the candle of the person on the end of each aisle.

Please carefully dip the unlit candle into the lit candle flame. Do not dip the lit candle.

Lighted candles should be held in an upright position so that hot wax will not drip.

When extinguished, please continue to hold your candle upright until it cools.

Following the service, please return your candle to a designated box or to an usher.

Organ Meditation Berceuse on Silent Night Charles Callahan

CANDLELIGHT HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night ELW 281
STILLE NACHT

After singing the third verse, please hum an additional verse. Choose a chime at which you will extinguish your candle.

SENDING

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**



ELW 267

ANTIOCH

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Festival Flourish on *Joy to the World*

Jacob B. Weber

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Puer natus in Bethlehem, BuxWV 217 Dieterich Buxtehude

Lois Jean Carpenter, organ

O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. Robert A. Hobby

Nathan Rummel, trombone

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. David Sims

O Come, Little Children arr. Michael Helman

Trinity Ringers

Masters in This Hall arr. John S. Dixon

Child in a Manger Sally DeFord

Karla Robinson, soprano, and Charles Robinson, baritone

Still, Still, Still (A Christmas Berceuse)

Joseph M. Martin

A Christmas Pastorale Charles Callahan

Patricia Fielding, flute

Serving the Assembly

Crucifer Shawn Murphy

Acolytes Luke Harry

Samantha Harry

Torchbearers Andrew Rummel

Elliott Jay

Bible Bearer Abbi Wessler

Clergy Cross Nathan Rummel

Lector Judy Hunt

Ushers/Greeters/Presenters Jerry Cobb

John Lunsford

David Roselius

Judy Hunt

David Hunt

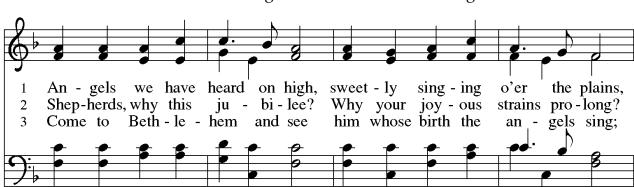
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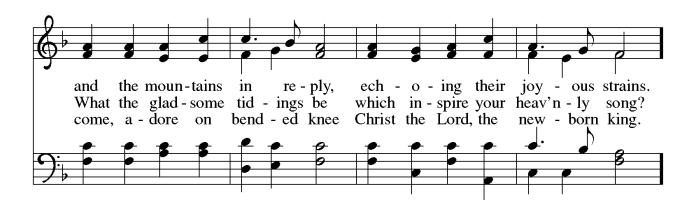


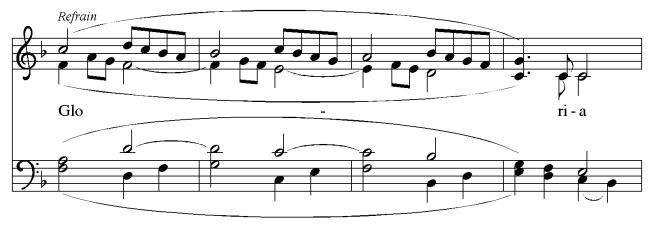






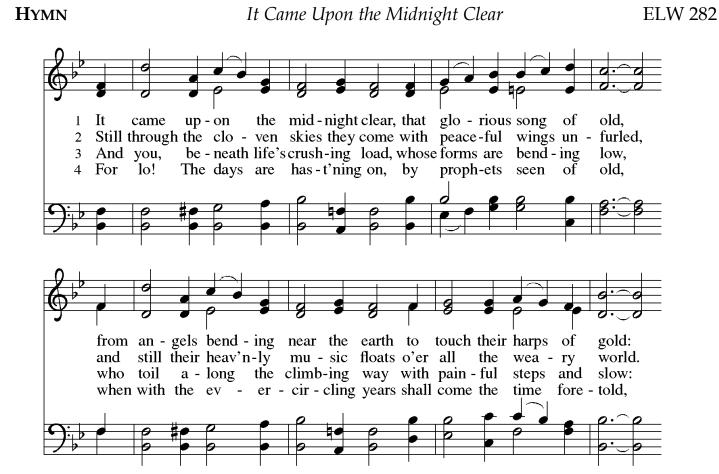




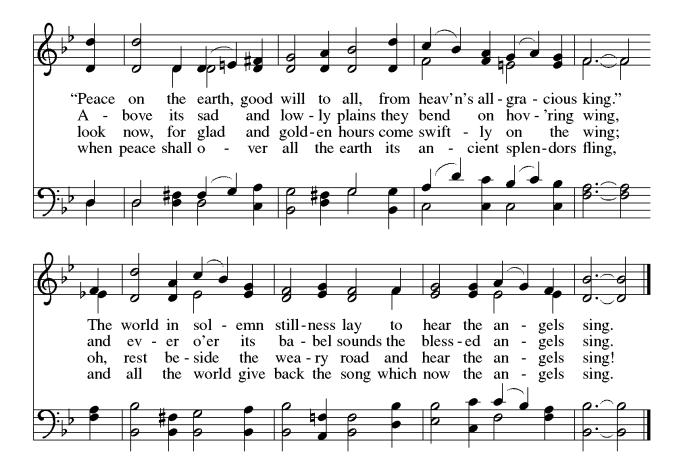


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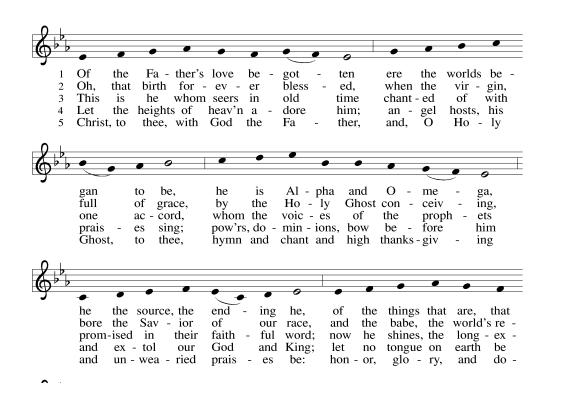
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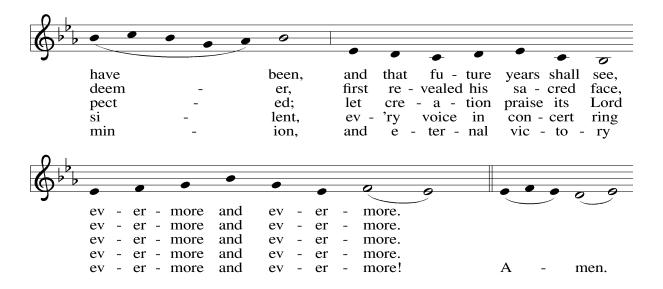


GOSPEL PROCESSION

Of the Father's Love Begotten (stanzas 1-3 and then stanzas 4-5)

ELW 295





Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Christmas Night

ELW 274



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



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908



- 1 In fant ho ly, in fant low ly, for his bed a cat tle stall;
- 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all. saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!



