December 24, 2015  Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Eve
Colors: White and Gold

Lectionary Readings
Isaiah 9:2–7  Light shines on people in darkness; a child has been born for us.
Psalm 96  Sing a new song to the Lord, all the earth; declare God's glory.
Titus 2:11–14  The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)  Jesus is born in Bethlehem; angels tell shepherds the good news.

Call to Worship
May accompany the lighting of Advent candles
Once we walked in darkness.
Now we have seen a great light.
Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to all people on earth.

Let us worship God.

Prayer of the Day
Glory to you, God Most High—
you have given to us a Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord—
good news of great joy for all.
Make us messengers of the gospel
and shepherds of your people.
Guide us always in paths of peace;
through Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession
God our Savior, we confess
that we are not people of peace.
You came to show us mercy,
but we are not merciful to others.
You came to establish justice,
but we fail to seek what is right.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Let your light shine upon us
to deliver us from evil
and lead us in your holy way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Prayers of the People

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray for the life of the world, saying: O Christ, our light, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church . . .
With Mary, help us to treasure and ponder the gift that has been given to us, a gift of good news and great joy for all.
O Christ, our light, hear our prayer.

We pray for the world . . .
With the prophets, help us to proclaim the promise of your peace for all nations and your justice for all people.
O Christ, our light, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community . . .
With the shepherds, help us to keep watch over those entrusted to our care and all who need protection this night.
O Christ, our light, hear our prayer.

We pray for loved ones . . .
With the angels, help us to offer signs of hope, comfort, and joy for all who live in fear.
O Christ, our light, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world, help us to bear witness to your light so that all may believe and have life in you; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

1. When we were living in deep darkness, you sent us your light—a child called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. All authority in heaven and on earth rests upon his shoulders.

2. Born in a stable, he is our Good Shepherd, and your holy Lamb. Lying in a manger, he is the bread of life, food for our souls. Praised by the heavenly host, he is the hope and joy of all the earth.

3. Teach us to renounce worldly passions and frivolous pursuits. In this present age, let our lives be godly, upright, and self-controlled, while we await the coming in glory of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.
### Hymns for the Day

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<th>GTG</th>
<th>PH/STF</th>
<th>LUYH</th>
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<td>[OG] On Christmas Night All Christians Sing</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>143</td>
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<td>[G] Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>31,32</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>87</td>
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<td>[G] Angels, from the Realms of Glory</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>93</td>
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<td>[O] The People Who Walked in Darkness</td>
<td>86</td>
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<td>[OG] It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Carol</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>89, 90</td>
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<td>[G] Before the Marvel of This Night Marvel</td>
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<td>[G] Where Shepherds Lately Knelt Manger Song</td>
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<td>[G] Still, Still, Still Still Still Still</td>
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<td>[G] Angels We Have Heard on High Gloria</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>96</td>
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<td>[G] Silent Night Stille Nacht</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>111</td>
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<td>[G] There’s a Star in the East Follow</td>
<td>135</td>
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### Psalm Settings

**Psalm 96**

**Metrical**

O Sing a New Song to the Lord Gonfalon Royal; GFTG 304, PH 216

Come and Sing a New Song; PAS 96A

Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise Wesley; PAS 96B

Sing, Sing, to the Lord Sing, PAS 96D

Sing a Song to God Salisbury; PAS 96E

Sing to the Lord a New Song Es Ist Ein Ros; PAS 96F

Sing to the Lord No Threadbare Song Canticum Novum; PAS 96G

O Sing New Songs unto the Lord Ellacombe, All Saints New, Kingsfold; PCW 96

**Responsive**

O sing a new song; GTG 639, PH 217, PSA 92, PAS 96H

Bring an offering and enter God’s courts; PSA 91

Let the heavens rejoice; PAS 96C

Sing to the Lord; O sing a new song; PEO 174–175
Anthems for Larger Choirs

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come,” J. S. Bach, *Bach for All Seasons*, SSATB, AF 080065854X  
“Songs in the Night at Jesus’ Birth,” Edwin T. Childs, SATB, keybd, opt chamber orch, MSM 50-20160  
“All My Heart This Night Rejoices,” David M. Cherwien, SATB, org, opt cong, fl, MSM 60-1124  
“What Sweeter Music,” Hal H. Hopson, SSAA, pno, MSM 50-1436  
“O Holy Night,” Scott M. Hyslop, TTBB, keybd, MSM 50-1245

Anthems for Smaller/Youth Choirs

“Glory to God in the Highest,” David Schelat, 2 pt, org, MSM 50-5007  
“Still, Still, Still,” Robert Wetzler, uni, org, opt fl, AF 0800645219  
“Walk in the Light,” André Thomas, uni or 2 pt, CGA 1062  
“The People Who Walked in Darkness,” Jayne Southwick Cool, SAB or 3 pt, pno, hb, AF ED004993

Anthems for Children’s Choirs

“How Far Is It to Bethlehem?” Alfred V. Fedak, 2 pt, keybd, MSM 50-1213  
“A Christmas Lullaby,” Jane Lindner, uni, keybd, opt fl, CGA 857  
“Oh, Sleep, My Dear Little Baby” (A La Ru), Michael Hawn, uni or 2 pt, keybd, opt gtr, CGA 626

Handbell Music

FOLLOW  
“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow,” John Behnke, 3–6 oct, AGEHR 36042, level 3+  
MENDELSSOHN  
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” Linda Lamb, 3–5 oct, ROP 3290, level 3+  
STILLE NACHT  
“Silent Night,” Cathy Moklebust, 3–5 oct, opt hc, opt perc, CON 97-7638 level 2

Organ Music

CRADLE SONG  
*Augsburg Organ Library: Advent*, David Williams, AF (E)  
MENDELSSOHN  
Noel! Four Christmas Carol Preludes for Organ, Neil Harmon, MSM (M/D)  
REGENT SQUARE  
*Three Christmas Preludes: Set 2*, Robert Hobby, MSM (E/M)  
*Augsburg Organ Library: Christmas*, Edwin C. Johnson, AF (M)  
STILLE NACHT  
“Partita on Stille Nacht,” Charles Callahan, MSM (E)