

CLOSING HYMN #352 (CW '21)

*Joy Has Dawned*



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—  
2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels  
3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.  
4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.  
as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.  
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:  
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,  
gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;  
What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.  
cling now to a moth - er's breast, — vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.  
myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.  
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, — now the Lord of his - t'ry.

OFFERING

*Our offerings are an expression of thankfulness for what our Savior has done for us,  
and a way of supporting the spread of the gospel through the Church's work.*

*You can place your offering in the plate in the entryway,  
or through our [secure online giving site](#).*



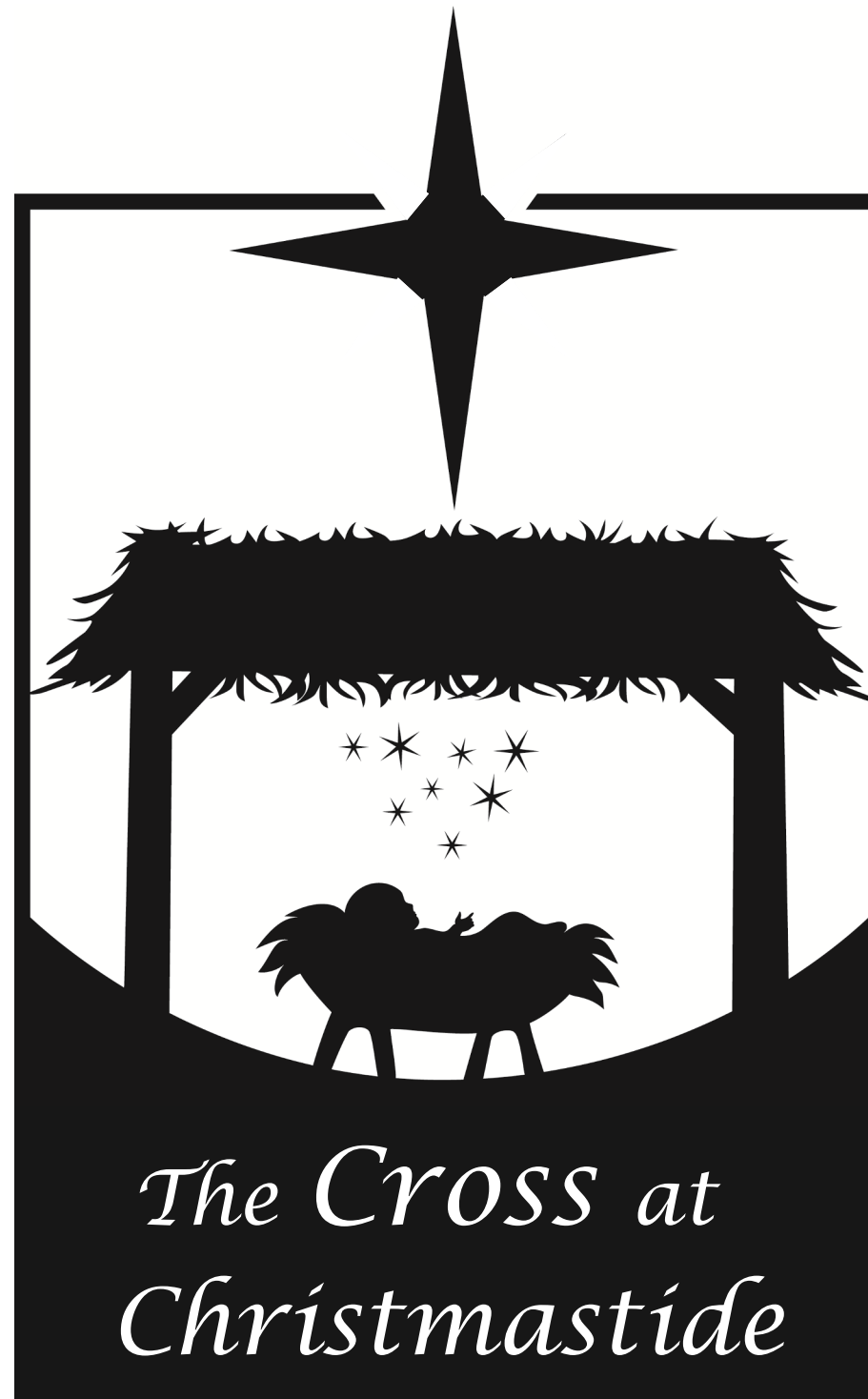
**Cleaners This Week** (December 18th—24th) - Blackstad, Holte, Parks

**Cleaners Next Week** (December 25th—31st) - Bakers, Beall, Claunch

Upcoming Services

Saturday @ 6:30 PM - **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Sunday @ 10:30 AM -- **Christmas Day Festival Service**



**OPENING HYMN #351 (CW '21)**

*He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded*

1. **He whose praise the shepherds sounded — told, by angel hosts surrounded,  
That their fears were all unfounded — now is born our glorious King.**
2. **Wise men — precious gifts preparing, myrrh and gold and incense bearing,  
In true faith, their love declaring — to the conqu'ring Lion cling.**
3. **Join in Mary's jubilation! Angels, in their heav'nly station,  
Hail the birth that brings salvation. Oh, how sweet their holy song!**
4. **Sing throughout the sanctuary: Christ the King is born of Mary,  
God and man, our sins to carry. Thanks and praise to him belong!**

**INVOCATION**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**PSALM 130**

M: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice.

C: **Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

M: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**

M: I wait for the LORD, my souls waits, and in his word I put my hope.

C: **My soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchman wait for the morning.**

M: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him there is full redemption.

C: **He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the only hope of salvation for all people. Bless our worship as we kneel at your humble manger bed, so that the good news of salvation through your cross will fill our hearts and lives; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**HYMN #57**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Children: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.

3. Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

C: **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.**

**BLESSING**

M: May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself.  
May the power of the Lord Jesus make us strong to do his will.  
May the peace of the Lord Jesus fill our lives.

C: **Amen.**

## The Cross on our Lips

No bells rang out in Bethlehem, When our dear Lord was born.  
No bells rang out to tell his birth On that first Christmas morn.

The sleepy town was wakened By a far better sound –  
The sound of people's voices Was ringing all around.

The shepherds came from fields nearby To see their newborn King;  
And when they saw their little Lord They made the whole town ring.

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem to see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

*When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (Luke 2:15-20)*

The message of the Christmas bells Is really ours to tell.  
You see, just like the shepherds, You are a Christmas bell.

You too can give souls peace – The peace of sins forgiven.  
You too can bring hearts joy – The joy of life in heaven.

You too can call friends home, As you find them in your search.  
You too can tell lost souls of Christ And bring them here to church.

Lift high the cross in your daily life And when friends ask you, "Why?"  
Then tell them of our Savior's birth And how he came to die.

Who are the bells of Christmas? We are, dear Christian friends,  
For we can spread the story Until our life here ends!

The message of the Christmas bells Is really ours to tell.  
You see, just like the shepherds, You are a Christmas bell.

## ADULT CHOIR

*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

## MESSAGE

### The Cross in the Promise

In Eden's lovely garden, Where all things did begin,  
The devil won the victory And led man into sin.

To the glory of his grace God revealed his saving plan,  
He told the devil plainly, He would rescue fallen man.

*The Lord God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel." (Gen. 3:15)*

In this promise of a Savior The cross of Christ we see,  
For Satan struck our Savior's heel On the cross of Calvary.

In this promise of a Savior The cross of Christ we see,  
For by his death upon the cross Christ won the victory.

The cross was in the promise – Our Savior bruised and dead;  
By this payment for our sins Christ crushed the devil's head.

## HYMN #754

*The Tree of Life*

- 1. The tree of life with ev'ry good In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew Another tree, of which they knew;  
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned Against whose eating God had warned.**
- 2. The stillness of that sacred grove Was broken as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice Eve to beguile And Adam to by sin defile.  
Oh, day of sadness when the breath Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
Its awful poison first displayed Within the world so newly made.**
- 3. What mercy God showed to our race, A plan of rescue by his grace:  
In sending One from woman's seed, The One to fill our greatest need –  
For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,  
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread To crush the ancient serpent's head!**

*(Continued on the next page) 3*

4. **Now from that tree of Jesus' shame Flows life eternal in his name;  
For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat,  
To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev'ry good.**

### The Cross in the Manger

The woman's promised offspring Is Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
God's Son, born of a woman. So God fulfilled his word.

The birth took place in Bethlehem, There in a lowly stall,  
A virgin bore the Son of God, The Savior of us all.

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:  
'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him  
Immanuel' - which means, 'God with us.'*

*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire  
Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of  
Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.*

*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the  
town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to  
register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.*

*While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her  
firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there  
was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)*

### CHILDREN'S HYMN #68

*Away in a Manger*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.

**Pastor:** "For ALL THE PEOPLE" the angel said; People born in sin and spiritually dead;  
People lost from God and doomed to hell: These are the people we need to tell.

For ALL THE PEOPLE in all the earth Who do not know of our Savior's birth,  
Who have no peace of sins forgiven, Who do not share our hope of heaven.

**All:** For ALL THE PEOPLE in every nation Lift high the cross that brings salvation!  
In distant lands the world around There's nothing so sweet as the Gospel's sound.

"For ALL THE PEOPLE" the angel said There's news of great joy for you to spread  
The Savior born in that lowly stall Has come for you and he's come for ALL.

**Children:** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
That whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

### HYMN #61

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

*Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (Matt. 26:26-28)*

**HYMN #38** (vv. 8, 13-15)

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

**All** Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery That you might share your joy with me.

**Men** Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, made clean and new, A quiet chamber kept for you.

**Women** My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle song:

**All** Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

### **The Cross to the World**

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:8-14)*

### **The Cross in the Manger (Continued)**

Come with us to that humble stall, We'll kneel beside his bed,  
But rather than a wooden crib, We'll view his cross instead.

We see his clenched, his infant hands, The tiny Babe so sweet.  
We see a cross on Calv'ry stands, With nails through hands and feet.

We see his face, his little head, His smooth and gentle brow.  
We see him on the cross instead A crown of thorns there now.

We see his small, his tiny back, His soft and tender skin.  
We hear a brutal whip go "Crack!" Wish lashes digging in.

We see his rounded, infant mouth, His smiling lips, as well.  
We hear him on the cross cry out In agony of hell.

We see his side, amidst the hay, Wrapped in the swaddling clothes.  
Pierced by a soldier's spear that day Forth blood and water flows.

Yes, in his lowly manger bed The cross of Christ we see.  
There for our sin the Savior bled To win the victory.

*He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*

*Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,  
Yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.*

*But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;  
The punishment that brought us peace was upon him,  
and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:2,4-5)*

SONG

God Loves Me Dearly

Children: vv.1, 3

Congregation: vv. 2, 4, 5

1. God loves me dearly, grants me salvation, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.
2. **I was in slav'ry, sin, death and darkness; God's love was working To make me free.**  
**Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**
3. He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer, He sent forth Jesus and set me free.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.
4. **Jesus, my Savior, himself did offer; Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.**  
**Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**
5. **Now I will praise you, O Love Eternal; Now I will praise you all my life long.**  
**Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

**The Cross in Our Hearts**

You need this little Baby, Born in this lowly stall.  
You need this little Baby. You need him most of all

You see, this is your Savior! He came to die for you  
That you may live forever Where all God's children do.

*When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,  
To redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. (Gal. 4:4,5)*

How happy you will be To have a Lord, so good.  
To come to earth to take your place And suffer what you should.

Lift high the cross in your own heart And trust in him alone!  
Lift high the cross in your own heart; By faith you are God's own.

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children  
of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)*

CHILDREN'S HYMN #38 (vv. 1-3)

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

1. "From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tiding of great joy I bring, Where-of I now will say and sing:
2. "To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
3. "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free."

**The Cross in the Means of Grace**

But where can we now find him, the King who rules o'er all?  
But where can we now find him? Not in a cattle stall!

Not on a cross or in a grave, You will not find him there.  
But in his promises to save, the King of Glory's there.

*I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of  
everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16)*

In water and word of Baptism, he comes to us and brings  
A new name—child of God— for which our soul now sings.

In bread and wine of Communion, he comes to us and brings  
His very body and his blood, the price paid for our sins.

Yes, here in Word and Sacrament, he comes to us and brings  
The Good News of salvation, to which our soul now clings.

*From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise  
for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim. 3:15)*

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us. Not  
because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us  
through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out  
on our generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by  
his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)*