



# The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

Thursday 24 December Anno Domini 2020

## Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

4219 Park Lane • Dorr, Michigan

[www.epiphanydorr.org](http://www.epiphanydorr.org)

The Rev. Ryan Beffrey, Pastor • Diane Scott, Organist

## THE OFFICE OF VESPERS

### WITH LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Please **STAND**.

#### OPENING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful,” 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 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*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

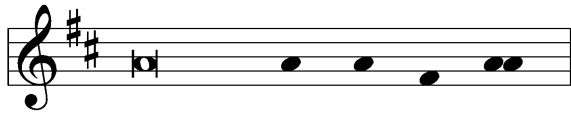


O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

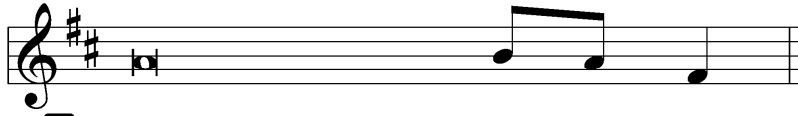
Text: John F. Wade (c. 1711-86); tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-80), alt.  
Tune: John F. Wade (c. 711-86)

ADESTE FIDELES  
Irregular meter

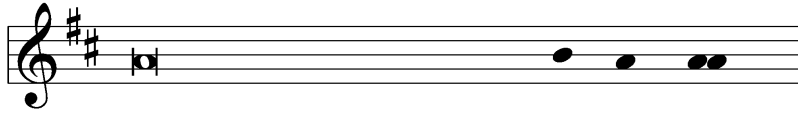
OPENING VERSICLES



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Please **BE SEATED**.

PSALM

Psalm 98 (antiphon: Isaiah 9:6)

*Antiphon (Christmas)*



To us a child is born, \_\_\_\_\_ to us a Son— is giv'n.—

*Psalm Tone*



**Choir** *Antiphon*

**All** **Antiphon**

**Choir** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done | marv'lous things! \*  
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation | for Him.

**All** The LORD has made known His sal- | vation; \*  
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

**Choir** He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel. \*  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

**All** *Antiphon.*

**Choir** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth; \*  
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

**All** **Sing praises to the LORD | with the lyre, \***  
**with the lyre and the sound of | melody!**

**Choir** With trumpets and the sound | of the horn \*  
make a joyful noise before the | King, the LORD!

**All** *Antiphon.*

**Choir** Let the sea roar, and all that | fills it; \*  
the world and those who | dwell in it!

**All** **Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, for He comes to | judge**  
**the earth. \***

**He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with | equity.**

**All** **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning, \***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**All** *Antiphon.*

Please **STAND**.

#### **BIDDING PRAYER**

**P** Beloved in Christ...

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the words Christ Himself taught us:

#### **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.**

Please **BE SEATED.**

HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City," 376

Stanzas 1 and 2 are sung by the soloist. The congregation sings stanzas 3-5.



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander (1818-95), alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-76)

Text and Tune: Public Domain

IRBY

87 87 77

LESSON

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the Seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God

called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

**P** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"All My Heart Again Rejoices," 360



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near  
 2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,  
 3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave  
 4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing  
 Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,  
 His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en  
 Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
 And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
 His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.  
 And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

5 Softly from His lowly manger

Jesus calls  
 One and all,  
 "You are safe from danger.  
 Children, from the sins that grieve you  
 You are freed;  
 All you need  
 I will surely give you."

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!

One and all,  
 Great and small,  
 Come with songs of gladness.  
 We shall live with Him forever  
 There on high  
 In that joy  
 Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt (1606-76), abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78), alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger (1598-1662)  
 Text and Tune: Public Domain

FRÖLICH SOLL MEIN HERZE SPRINGEN  
 8 33 6 D

LESSON

*Christ's birth and the kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaiah said, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his

shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**P** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"From East to West," 385



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry  
 2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and  
 △ 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom  
 fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our  
 Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.  
 mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.  
 Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. John Ellerton (1826-93), alt.

Tune: *Geistliche Lieder*, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valentin Schumann

Text and Tune: Public Domain

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

LM

LESSON

*The Prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

Micah 5:2-5a

Thus says the LORD: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and this One shall be peace.

**P** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C** Thanks be to God.





1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 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.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks (1835-93)  
 Tune: Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)  
 Text and Tune: Public Domain

ST. LOUIS  
 86 86 76 86

## LESSON

*The Angel Gabriel announces the Messiah to the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Luke 1:26-38

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**P** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

CHORAL MEDITATION

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”  
arr. Mark Hayes

LESSON *The Angel Gabriel confirms the message given to the Blessed Virgin Mary.* Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

**P** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” 380



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!



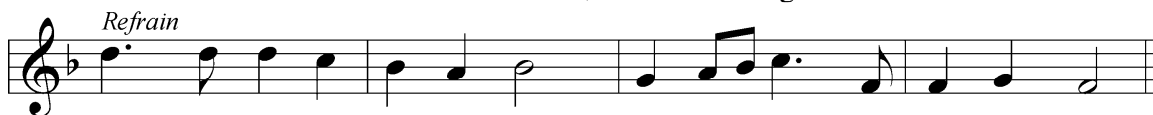
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-88), alt.  
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)  
Text and Tune: Public Domain

MENDELSSOHN  
77 77 D and refrain



LESSON

The birth of Christ.

Luke 2:1-7 (KJV)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**P** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“Joy to the World,” 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
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)

Tune: Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759), adapt.

Text and Tune: Public Domain

ANTI-OCH  
CM and refrain

LESSON

The birth of Christ.

Luke 2:8-20 (KJV)

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**P** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**CAROL**

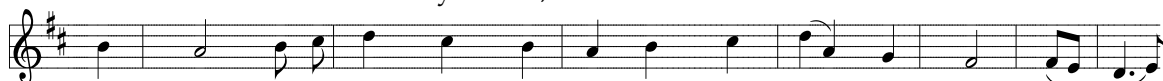
"The First Noel"



1. The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the  
 3. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O - ver Beth - le -  
 4. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es



shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay, keep - ing  
 east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave  
 hem it took its rest, And there it did both stop  
 to our heav - en - ly Lord, That hath made heav'n and earth



their sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No - el,  
 great light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No - el,  
 and stay Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay. No - el,  
 of naught, And with His Blood man - kind hath bought No - el,



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

Text: Traditional English Carol  
 Tune: Traditional English Carol  
 Text and tune: Public Domain

THE FIRST NOEL  
 Irregular, with refrain

**SERMON**

Please **STAND**.

**KYRIE**



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## 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.

## COLLECTS



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with your spir - it.

*each prayer ends:*

**P** ...one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.



**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C** A - men.

Before the hymn, the light from the Christ Candle is shared with the congregation, a visual reminder that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and has come to each of us to give us forgiveness, life, and salvation. **As the light is passed, please do not tip candles that are lighted. Please dip your unlit candle into the flame of your neighbor's candle.**

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night,” 363



1 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 - diantbeams from Thy ho - ly face



Hol - der 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 Thy



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 Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John F. Young (1820-85)

Tune: Franz Xavier Gruber (1787-1863)

Text and Tune: Public Domain

STILLE NACHT

66 88 66

PARTICIPANTS

Liturgist and Preacher..... the Rev. Ryan Beffrey  
 Organist..... Diane Scott  
 Musicians..... Emma Scott; Evan Supplee

Acknowledgements

The Office of Vespers from *Lutheran Service Book*.

Psalm 97 antiphon and chant tone composed by Henry V. Gerike (b. 1948). From *Hymnal Supplement 98*, © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License, no. 110017344.

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