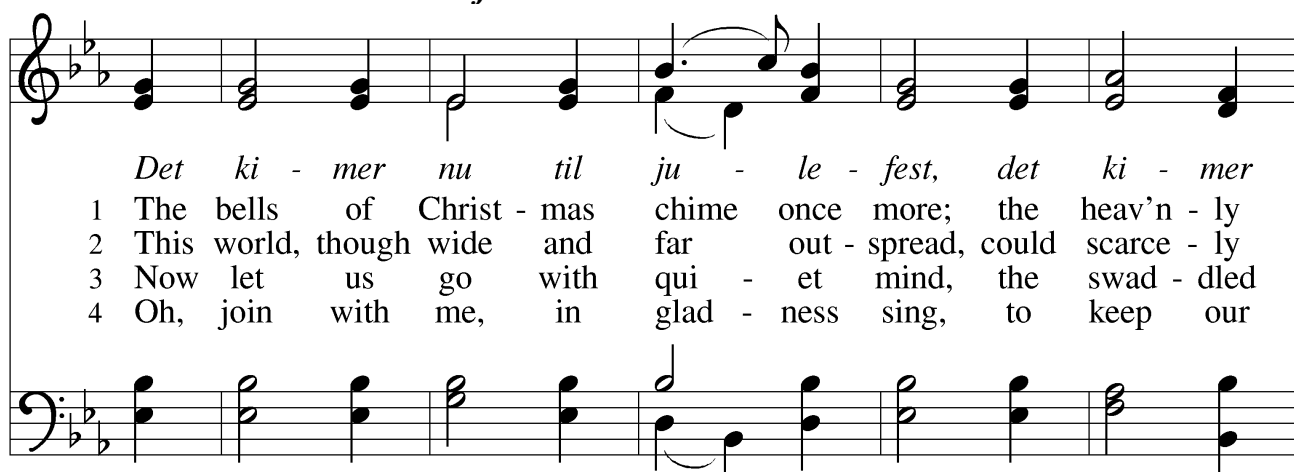


# GATHERING SONG: *The Bells of Christmas* + ELW 298



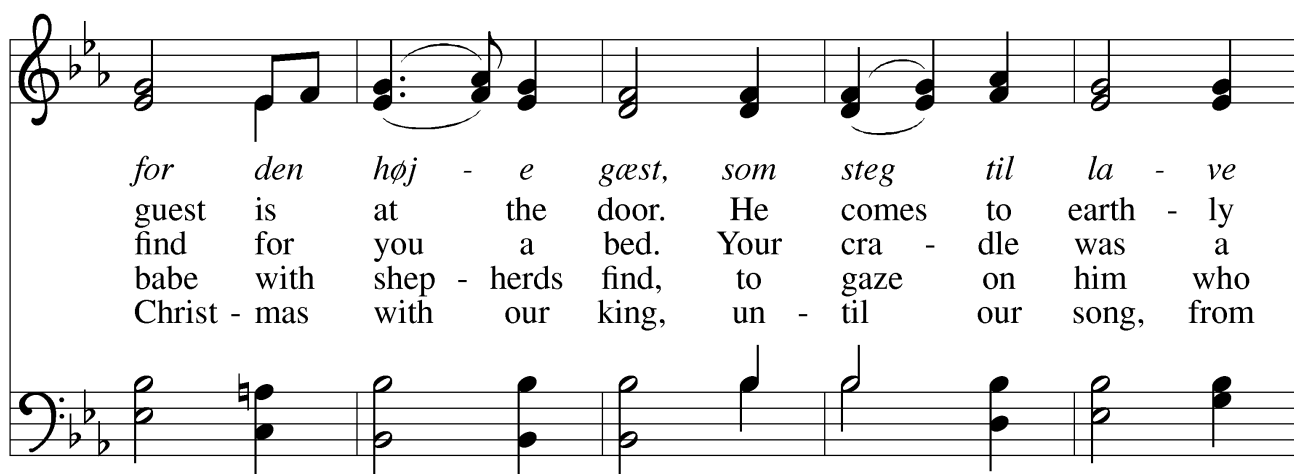
Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer

1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly

2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly

3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled

4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve

guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly

find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a

babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who

Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.

dwel - lings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.

man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.

glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.

lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,  
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,  
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,  
great David's Son, great David's Lord:

6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,  
and keep your Christmas in our breast;  
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,  
shall swell our jubilee of song.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING      *Isaiah 63:7-9***

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup> For he said, “Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,”  
and he became their savior  
<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***Psalm 148***

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the Lord, | all you angels;  
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name | of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they | were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, | snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts | and all cattle,  
creeping things and | flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together. R**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name | of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING *Hebrews 2:10-18*

A reading from Hebrews:

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

<sup>13</sup> And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL    *Matthew 2:13-23***

The holy gospel according to Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning* + ACS 1060



1 Gen - tle Jo - seph heard a warn - ing from an an - gel in the night;  
2 Tar - gets of a ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing safe - ty, flee - ing strife,  
3 Give us, God, such faith and cour - age when we move from place to place,



val - iant Mar - y, maid - en moth - er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:  
leav - ing house and land and kin - dred, spurred by dreams of peace - ful life;  
and to those who come a - mong us, make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ - child's fam - 'ly lived out what the proph - et had fore - told,  
through the des - ert of un - know - ing and the night of doubt they went,  
Let us see in ev - 'ry strang - er ref - u - gees from Beth - le - hem,



that he might be called from E - gypt as God's peo - ple were of old.  
guid - ed by God's prom - ised pres - ence, by that trust made con - fi - dent.  
help us of - fer each one wel - come and re - ceive the Christ in them.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, J. Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. (*We pray especially for . . .*)  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

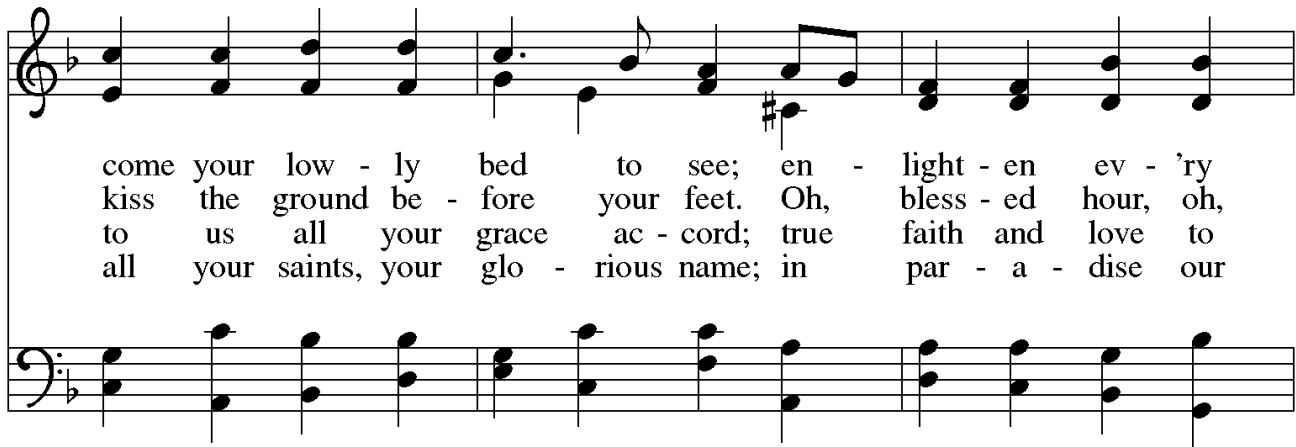
God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones (*especially*). Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

# HYMNS DURING COMMUNION *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord* + ELW 286



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and  
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and  
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and  
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry  
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,  
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to  
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.  
 sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.  
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.  
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.  
 Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800



*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* + ELW 288

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three parts of the hymn indicated by numbers 1, 2, and 3.

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three lines of text corresponding to the three parts of the hymn. The musical notation includes a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three lines of text corresponding to the three parts of the hymn. The musical notation includes a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The fourth system concludes the hymn. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three lines of text corresponding to the three parts of the hymn. The musical notation includes a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The system ends with a double bar line.

# SENDING SONG *Go Tell It on the Mountain* + ELW 290

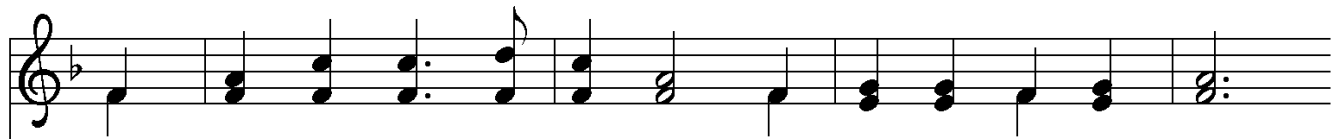
*Refrain*



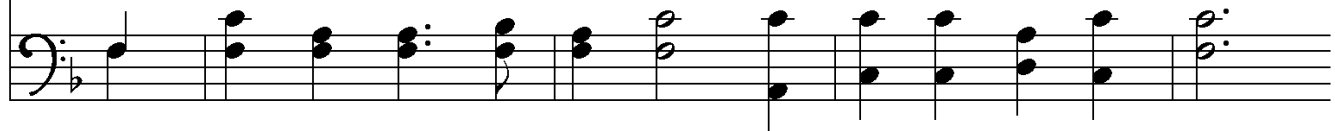
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual