

# First Sunday of Christmas

## December 27, 2020

A collaborative effort of First Lutheran Church Galveston, Christ the King Houston, and the Bishop's Office.



CHRIST  
THE LUTHERAN  
KING CHURCH



**Texas - Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Worship & Communion

*We welcome all people into  
grace through faith as we  
belong, behave and believe in  
Jesus Christ.*



**Welcome! Your presence at worship is a gift. Take a moment to introduce yourself to someone near you. If you are a visitor to First Lutheran, we invite you to fill out the tear off card on the back of the service folder and place it in the offering plate.**

# First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday

December 27, 2020

HOLY COMMUNION

**Welcome to Worship**

**Rev. Richard Rhoades**

Prelude

Ms. Mary Joy Silmaro

*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

*Richard Elliot (b.1957)*

**Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Please stand as able.**

**Processional Carol**

**ELW#269**

***Once in Royal David's City***

**Greeting**

**Rev. Karin Liebster**

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All And also with you.**

**Dialogue**

**Rev. Karin Liebster**

Pastor In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**All He was in the beginning with God; all things came to being through Him.**

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.


**He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.**

But to all who received him he gave power to become children of God, who were born of God.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. We have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son. [John 1]**

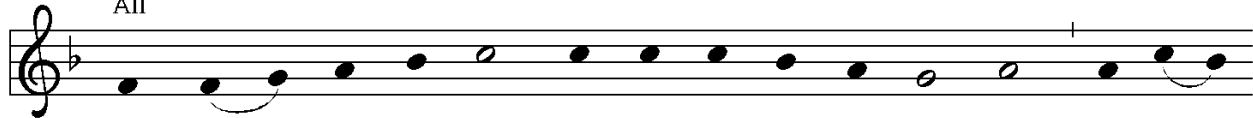
## Gloria

Assisting minister




Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.


All




Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -



ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.




Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the

Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone  
 are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayers of the Day

**Sergio Rodriguez, Intern**

Pastor Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, you grant us faith in the midst of suffering with the promise of hope, you call us to trust in the midst of death with the promise of life. We share in the waiting and longing of Simeon and Anna in these days of the COVID-19 pandemic with disrupted living, challenges and sorrows all around us. We long for what faith proclaims. Lead us in these days to enter a new year with renewed hope grounded in your grace which has no end and continues to hold us amid our fears. We beseech you in the name of the one who came to us in Bethlehem, gave himself on the cross, and promised to return, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Please be seated.**

**Solo**

***I Wonder as I wander  
Appalachian Carol***

**Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

**First Reading: Isaiah 61:10--62:3**

**Brandi Painter**

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Lector Word of God, word of life.

**All Thanks be to God.**

***Praise the Lord of Heaven!  
(1 All, 2 Solo, 3 All)***

**Second Reading: Gálatas 4:4-7****Carlos Peña**

<sup>4</sup> Pero, cuando se cumplió el plazo, Dios envió a su Hijo, nacido de una mujer, nacido bajo la ley, <sup>5</sup> para rescatar a los que estaban bajo la ley, a fin de que fuéramos adoptados como hijos. <sup>6</sup> Ustedes ya son hijos. Dios ha enviado a nuestros corazones el Espíritu de su Hijo, que clama: «¡Abba! ¡Padre!» <sup>7</sup> Así que ya no eres esclavo, sino hijo; y, como eres hijo, Dios te ha hecho también heredero.

**Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7****Sergio Rodriguez**

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Lector Word of God, word of life.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Please Stand as able.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Bishop Michael Rinehart**

Pastor The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of



many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor The gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Reflection**

**Bishop Michael Rinehart**

*Please Stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

**ELW#296**

***What Child is This***

**Creed**

**Rev. Richard A. Rhoades**

Pastor With the whole church,  
we join in professing the Christian Faith.

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

**PR** Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

***Please kneel as able. Silence is kept for reflection.***

**PL** Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Let us ask of the Lord.

**All Grant this, O Lord.**

PR All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect the world you have made and stir up good stewards to tend to your creation. Let us ask of the Lord.

**All Grant this, O Lord.**

PL The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. We pray for President Trump, President-Elect Biden and all the elected officials serving our communities. Let us ask of the Lord.

**All Grant this, O Lord.**

PR Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. We pray for those struggling in mind, body or spirit including those we name now... . Reveal your power to heal and to save. Let us ask of the Lord.

**All Grant this, O Lord.**

PL Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless the elders in our communities with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across all generations. Let us ask of the Lord.

**All Grant this, O Lord.**

PR Stir up hope and joy in our ministry partners including Bishops Elizabeth and Mike, the congregations of the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, and our international partners in the Central African Republic and Peru. Let us ask of the Lord.

**All Grant this, O Lord.**

PL Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. You give light to those who sit in darkness, and remember your children forever. Be with all whose world has darkened this year when loved ones succumbed to the Coronavirus. Help us understand the dimensions of loss and remain close to all who are grieving. For all your saints, including John, apostle and evangelist, whom the church remembers today, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Let us ask of the Lord.

**All Grant this, O Lord.**

Bishop God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**All Amen.**

**Peace**

**Rev. Richard A. Rhoades**

**Motet**

***'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime  
French Voyager Carol, arr. R. Erikson***

**Offering Prayer**

**Sergio Rodriguez**

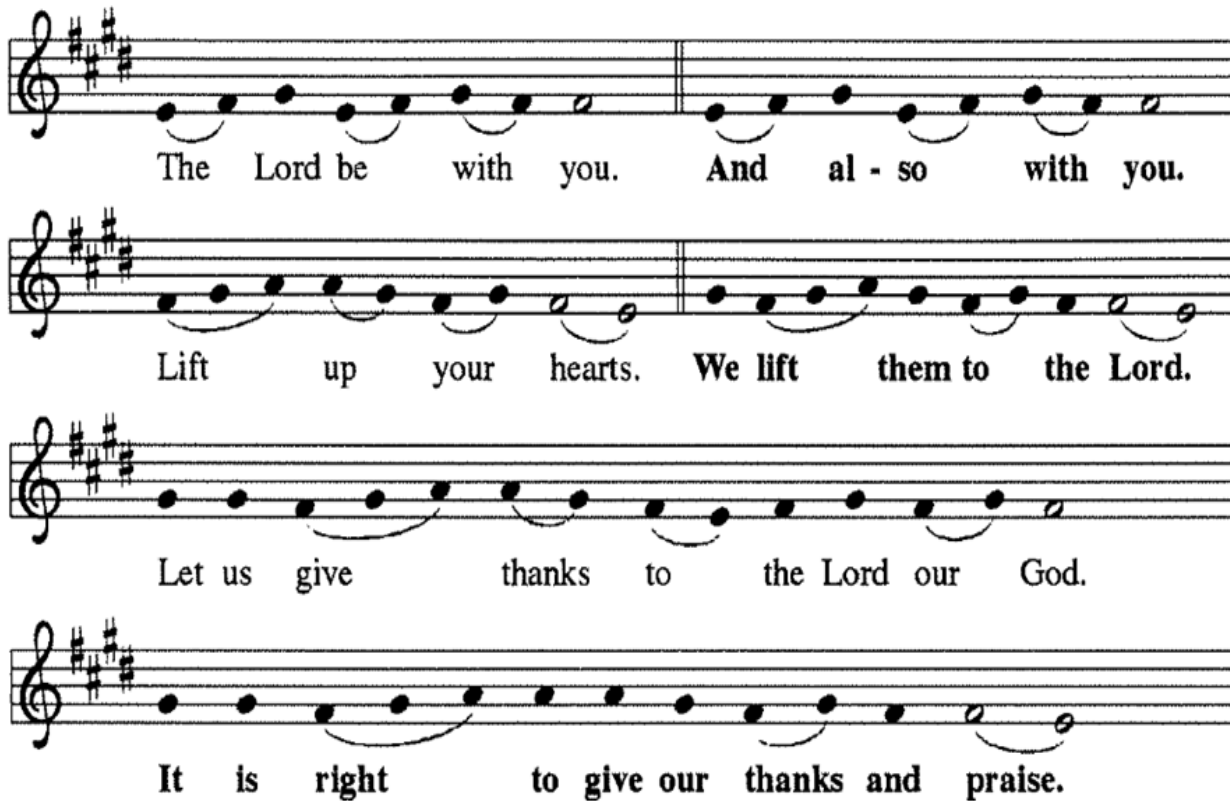
Pastor Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

***Please stand as able.***

# Great Thanksgiving

Bishop Michael Rinehart



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

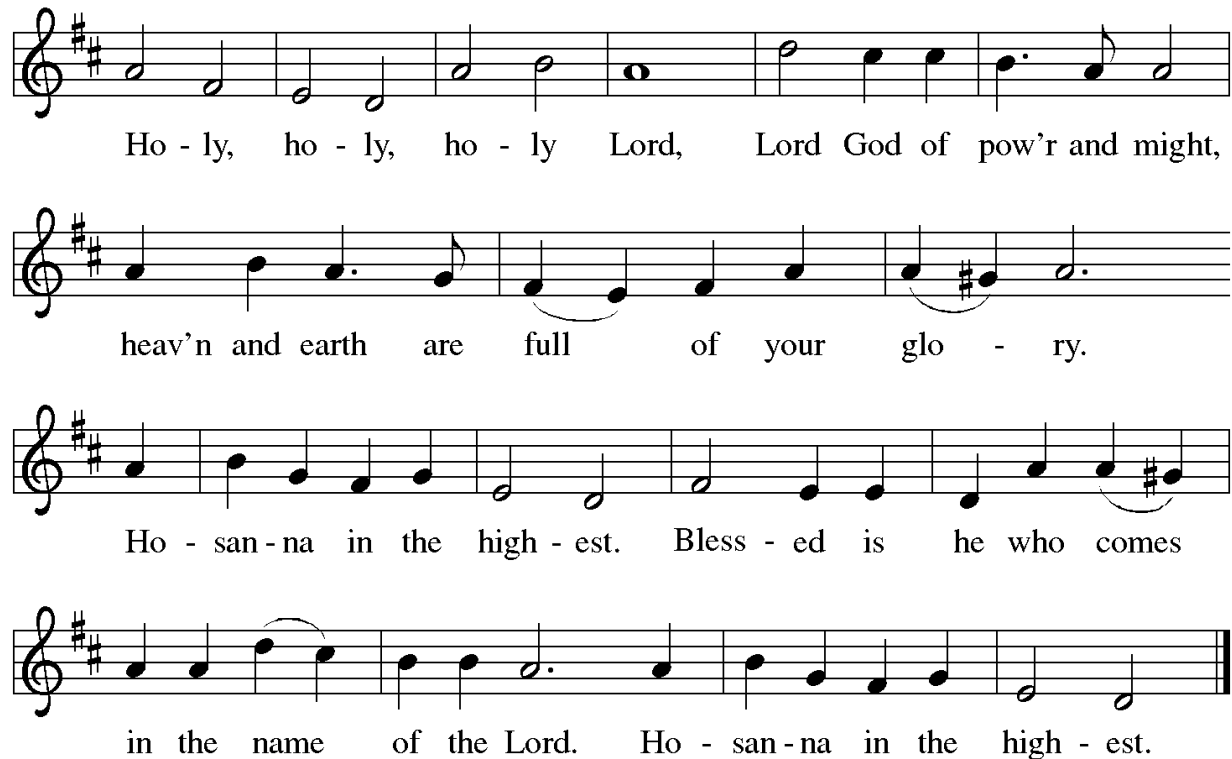
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface

Pastor It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***Please kneel as able.***

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

Bishop 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:

**All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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.

**All 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.

**All 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.  
**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Bishop Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**All 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.**

## **Invitation To Communion**

Bishop The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.  
Come meet Christ in this meal.

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Reception of Holy Communion

Music during the reception of Holy Communion

Organ Solo

Don Hermanson

Motet

*Unto Us is Born a Son*  
Piae Cantiones, 1582

Bishop The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ✙  
strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**



Pastor We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## Now, Lord

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has  
 been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion  
 which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:  
 a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,  
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,  
 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## **Benediction**

**Bishop Michael Rinehart**

Bishop When he came to us, the Son of God scattered the darkness of this world, and filled the holy day with his glory. May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness. Amen. God sent angels to the shepherds to herald great joy of our Savior's birth. May he fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the gospel. Amen. When the word became flesh, earth was joined to heaven. May God give you peace and goodwill and communion with the heavenly host. Amen. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen

## **Recessional Song**

**ELW#275**

***Angels From the Realms of Glory***

## **Dismissal**

**Rev. Richard A. Rhoades**

Asst Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

**Don Hermanson**

*Hallelujah!*  
*George Frederic Handel*

## Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav' n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895

Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

## Praise the Lord of Heaven!



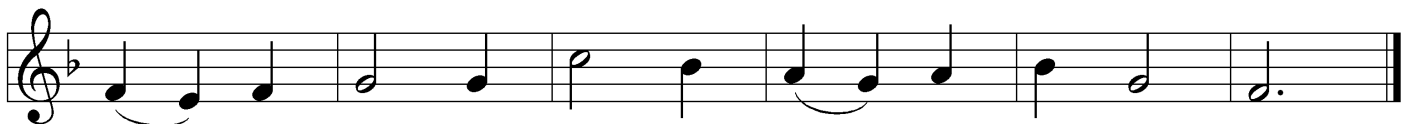
1 Praise the Lord of heav - en! Praise him in the height;  
2 Praise the Lord, you foun - tains of the deeps and seas,  
3 Praise him, fowl and cat - tle, princ - es and all kings;



praise him, all you an - gels; praise him, stars and light!  
rocks and hills and moun - tains, ce - dars and all trees!  
praise him, men and wom - en, all cre - at - ed things;



Praise him, clouds and wa - ters which, a - bove the skies,  
Praise him, clouds and va - pors, snow and hail and fire,  
for the name of God is ex - cel - lent a - lone



when his word com - mand - ed, did es - tab - lished rise!  
storm - y wind, ful - fill - ing on - ly his de - sire!  
o - ver earth his foot - stool, o - ver heav'n his throne!

Text: Thomas B. Browne, 1805–1874  
Music: NOUS ALLONS, French carol

## There's a Star in the East

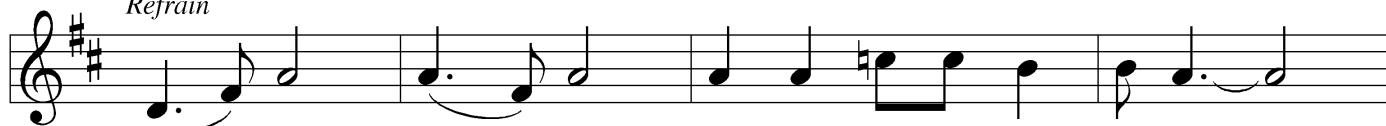


- 1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
- 2 If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.  
You'll for-get your flocks, you'll for - get your herds, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

### *Refrain*



Fol - low, fol - low, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.



Fol-low the star of Beth-le - hem, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: RISE UP, SHEPHERD, African American spiritual

## What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.  
The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

## Angels, from the Realms of Glory

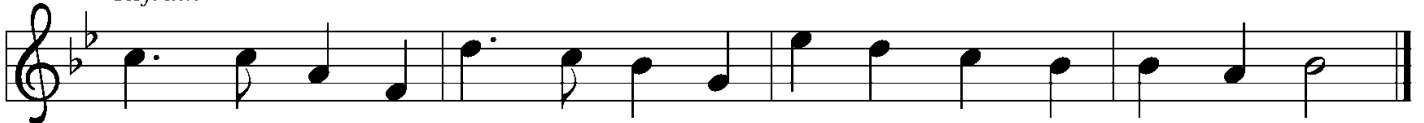


- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the • e - ter - nal Three in One.

### *Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## **Serving at Worship**

Bishop Michael Rinehart, Bishop TXLA Gulf Coast Synod

Rev. Richard A. Rhoades, Pastor FLC Galveston

Rev. Karin Liebster, Pastor Christ the King Houston

Sergio Rodriguez, Intern Christ the King Houston

Rick Erickson, Deacon Christ the King Houston

Don Hermanson, Organist FLC Galveston

Mary Joy Silmaro, Music Associate Christ the King Houston

Brandi Painter, FLC Galveston

Carlos Peña, FLC Galveston

Vicki Gorman, Staff Singer Christ the King Houston

Calvin Harris, Staff Singer Christ the King Houston

Jorge Belonni, Staff Singer Christ the King Houston

Jackson Glenn, Crucifer FLC Galveston