

Third Sunday of Advent
“Shepherd’s Candle”
December 15, 2024
and
Lessons and Carols
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church



The Third Candle: Joy

The third Advent candle symbolizes joy and is often referred to as the "Shepherd's Candle." This candle encapsulates the jubilant anticipation of the shepherds who received the joyous news of the Savior's birth. As it is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, it radiates the infectious joy that permeates the hearts of believers, inspiring a spirit of celebration and exultation as Christmas draws near.

Sunday, December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent
Lessons and Carols

“The Gift of the Christ Child”

Introduction

Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“The First Noel”
Chuck Linderkamp, flute

arr. Jamie Mulfinger

GATHERING

Greeting

Matt. 11:10

P: Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.

All: Alleluia.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Song:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Litany:

P: Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.

All: Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.

P: Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.

All: Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing: Glory to God in the highest!

P: Come! Receive this ancient story in your hearts, not as history but as a gift.

All: Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today. Amen.

Light the three candles.

Song:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Verse 4

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

P: Gracious God,

All: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

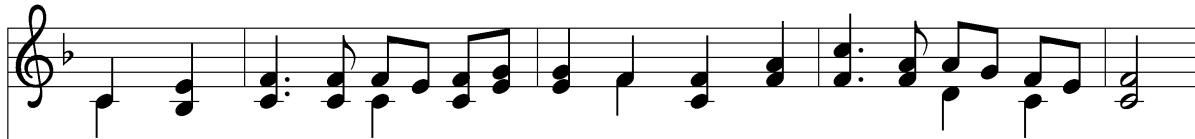
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gathering Hymn



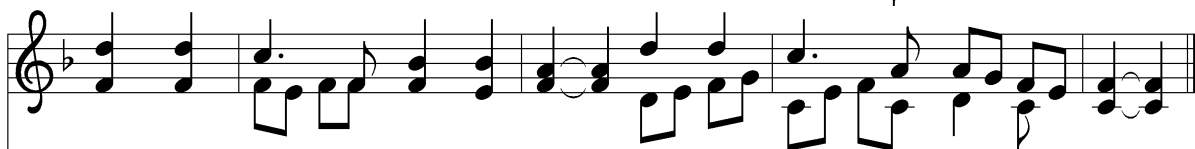
Verses 1 and 2 Large print words found on page 16



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,



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;



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.



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

P: 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.**

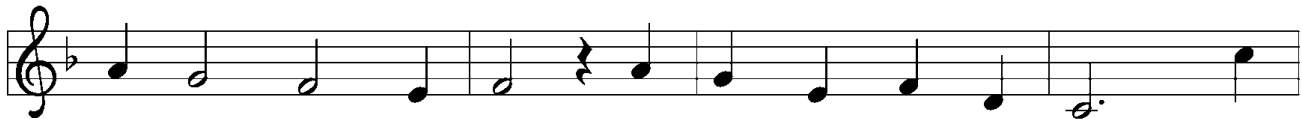
Verses 1,2,4 – Large printed words on page 17



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

The Blessings of the Coming Messiah

Reading

Isaiah 35: 1-10

L: “The Word of the Lord”

C: **Thanks be to God**

Anthem

“Gesù Bambino”

- Pietro Yon

Pastor Mitch Kinsinger, guitar

Silvester Vicic, accordion

The Birth of Christ Foretold

Reading **Luke 1: 26-38**

L: "The Word of the Lord"

C: **Thanks be to God**

Anthem **"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came "**

Barbara Rossow, piano

The Birth of Christ

Reading **Matthew 1: 18-25**

L: "The Word of the Lord"

C: **Thanks be to God**

Anthem **"Starry Night" - arr. Brenda E. Austin**

Jubilate Handbell Choir

David Almquist, Janine Almquist, Jim Jaszczak, Barbara Rossow,

Laurel Wiehe, Pam Wiehe, Mike Wiehe

Chuck Linderkamp, director

The Angels and Shepherds at Christ's Birth

Reading **Luke 2: 8-20**

L: "The Word of the Lord"

C: **Thanks be to God**



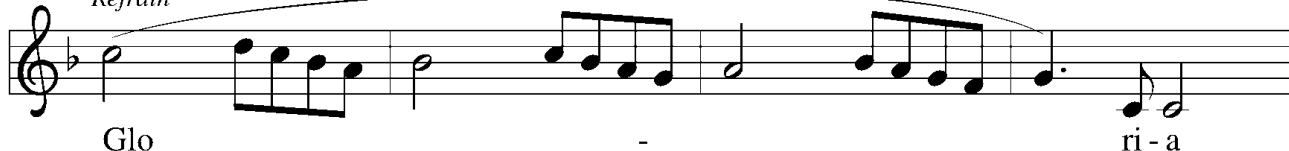
verses 1,2,3 Large printed words found on page 18



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

In the Beginning...The Word Became Flesh

Reading:**John 1: 1-14**

L: “The Word of the Lord”

C: **Thanks be to God****Anthem:****“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”****arr. Amy and Adams**

Amy Westin and Mark Adams, duet

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Sharing of the Peace

Sharing of the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

Offering Anthem: “Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”

arr. Robert A. Hobby

Linda Strohkirch and Janine Almquist – duet

Prayers of Intercession

AM: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creations.

AM: *Each prayer will end with:* Lord in your mercy,

All: **Receive our prayer.**

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Sending Hymn.



Verses 1,2,3 large printed words found on page19



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 you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

All: Amen.

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude:

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

arr. Andy Clark

Daniel Hickox-Young, trombone

Chuck Linderkamp, saxophone

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Leading Worship Today

Pastor: Dr. Rev. Mitch Kinsinger

Intern: Bethany Ketchem

Organist/Pianist: Barbara Rossow

Readers: Orval Osmundson, Mary Kowitz, Jon Helgason, Christine Anderson, Cheryl Hollman, Dennis Rasmusson, and Pastor Mitch Kinsinger

Song Leader: Chuck Linderkamp

Ushers: David Almquist, Florence and Dennis Rasmusson

Hospitality: Barb Schmidt and Jim Persoon

Livestream Producer: Silvester Vicic or Jim Persoon

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR AHLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Dean Anderson, Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Wayne Blossey, Pamela Boldt, Carol Brockway, Linda Brockway, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan and Wayne Frankenberg, Linda Granlund, Esther Hallgren, Adeline Hansen, Velta Krauze, John Lind, Gene Linderkamp, Marilyn Nelson, Priscilla Reeve, Betty Richter, Marnie Rose, Betty Swanson, Ken Wagner, Gary Winter, and MaryAnn Wistrom.

Christmas Memorial Garden – Forms and payment should be submitted by tomorrow (December 16th) to have your information included in the Christmas bulletin. Thank you to those that have already submitted them to the office.

Church Office Holiday Hours – We will be closing at noon on December 24th. Closed on December 25, December 31 and January 1st. If you need pastoral care during that time please call Mary Kowitz at 651-242-0538 and she will be able to assist you.

Christmas Eve Services are at 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service will be pre-recorded and available to watch on Christmas Day on YouTube or at our Facebook Page.

What’s Happening

Sunday, Dec. 15	Worship Service	9:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Monday, Dec. 16	Alley Shoppe is Closed	
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Alley Shoppe is Closed	
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Congregation Council	6:30 p.m. Reception Room
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Romeo’s	7:30 a.m. Perkins
Thursday, Dec. 19	Office Closes at Noon	
Friday, Dec. 20	Office Closed	
Saturday, Dec. 21	Office Closed	
Sunday, Dec. 22	Worship Service	9:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Monday, Dec. 23	Office Open	
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Office closes at noon	
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	4:00 & 10:00 p.m. Sanctuary
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day Office Closed No Romeo’s	Pre-recorded Service
Thursday, Dec. 26	Office Closed	
Friday, Dec. 27	Office Closed	
Saturday, Dec. 28	Office Closed	
Sunday, Dec. 29	Worship Service	9:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Monday, Dec. 30	Office open	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 31	Office closed	
Wednesday, January 1	Office closed	

Christmas with the River City Chorale – Friday Dec. 20th at 7:30 p.m.
 St. Bridget’s Catholic Church in River Falls WI \$20,00 ticket, and Sunday
 December 20th at 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN’
 Free will offering. *Note: Janine Almquist sings in this choir.*

Daily Scripture Readings for the Week of December 15th

Dec. 15 Hebrews 4:16	Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Dec. 16 2 Peter 1:2	May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
Dec. 17 1 John 3:18	Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.
Dec. 18 Colossians 3:12	As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
Dec. 19 1 Peter 5:5	In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'
Dec. 20 Luke 17:3-4	Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, "I repent", you must forgive.'
Dec. 21 Ephesians 4:7	But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

"Messiah" Sing-A-Long at Grace Lutheran Church - On Saturday, December 21, at 2:00 p.m. join Grace Lutheran's director of music ministries, Russ Carlson, and participate in G.F. Handel's "The Messiah" Sing-a-long. Singers of all ages are welcome. Bring your score, and if you don't have one, there will be ones available to use for the event. You will sing the first part of the score; the prophecy and fulfillment of the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah. You will close with the "Hallelujah!" chorus. Grace Lutheran is located at 1730 Old Hudson Road in St. Paul. If you have questions, call the church at 651-774-9617.

ESCo - Advent Reverse Calendar – if you want a shopping list of items that are needed for the Food Shelf, please stop in the office to pick one up. Donations can be brought at any time and placed on the cupboard by the elevator.

Gathering Hymn
Once in Royal David's City

ELW# 269
Verses 1 & 2

- 1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

- 2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

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, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

3 Hail the heav'n-born 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 each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Christmas Lessons and Carols with Reflections from Martin Luther

Luther's reflections are drawn from Martin Luther's Christmas Book as translated and edited by Roland H. Bainton, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017. Original edition copyright 1948 W. L. Jenkins. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press.

First Reading Luke 2:1-7

Luther's reflections on the birth of Jesus

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother. . . . What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! . . . Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. . . . You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to judge this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, p. 33)

Second Reading Luke 2:8-16

Luther's reflections on the shepherds and angels

Look at the shepherds. They were watching their flocks by night, and an angel came and made them apostles, prophets, and children of God. . . . This is a great miracle that the shepherds should have believed this message. They might easily have thought to themselves, "Are we two shepherds worthy that the whole host of heaven should be marshaled for us and all the kings on the earth and the dwellers in Jerusalem be passed by?" I know I would have appealed to common sense and I would have said: "Who am I compared to God and angels and kings? It is an apparition." But the Holy Spirit, who preached through the angels, caused the shepherds to believe. They were so strong in the faith that they were worthy to be spoken to by angels and to hear every angel in heaven singing a cantata just for them. This is a pure wonder that enters not into the heart of man. Our God begins with angels and ends with shepherds. Why does he do such preposterous things? He puts a Babe in a crib. Our common sense revolts and says, "Could not God have saved the world some other way?" (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 36, 40)

Third Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Luther's reflections on Herod and the wise men

When the Wise Men received the divine revelation that the king of the Jews was born, they made straight for Jerusalem, for, of course, they expected to find him at the capital in a lordly castle and a golden chamber. Where else would common sense expect to find a king? But because they were so sure of themselves, the star left them. Then they were sorely tried, and had they relied solely on human wisdom, would surely have said: "Confound it! We have come all this way for nothing. The star has deceived us. The devil has led us by an apparition. If a king had been born, would he not be in the capital and in a palace? But when we come, the star disappears and we find no one who knows anything about him. Can it be that we foreigners should be the first to have news of him in the royal city? Everyone is so cold and unfriendly that no one offers to go with us and show us the child. They do not believe themselves that to them a king is born, and shall we come and find him? How desolate for the birth of a king! If a puppy were born there would be some little stir, and here a king is supposed to be born and everything is so still. . . . Should not the people be singing, capering, lighting lamps and torches, bedecking the streets with roses and mayflowers? What a miserable king we are seeking! What fools we have been to let ourselves start on this quest!" Nature wants to feel and be certain before believing, but grace will believe before she feels. Faith steps gaily into the darkness, trusting simply in the Word.

But having come, they decided to inquire of the king before returning. At their report, Herod the king "was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Why was Herod terrified and all Jerusalem with him? *He* had good reason to be afraid because he had tyrannized over the Jews for thirty years. . . . Now Herod had a crafty plan. "The Jews," thought he, "will hide the truth from me, but I will find out the town where this king is to be born and also the time, and then if they hide him, I will catch him anyway. I will kill so many babies that he cannot escape." So he called the scribes to him and said, "Where is Christ to be born?" Then perhaps through fear, the scribes answered him that in the Prophet Micah it is written that He should be born in Bethlehem. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 50-52)

Fourth Reading John 1:1-5, 14-18

Luther's reflections on the Word made flesh

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man.

Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

This is the word of the prophet: "*Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given*" (Isaiah 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and God himself, as to believe that this Son of God is ours. That is where we wilt. . . . Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all mankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary's breast. This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food. Then will the heart be suffused with all joy and will be strong and confident against every assault. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 33, 16)



2024 Christmas Garden

If you would like to give a gift in memory of or in honor of a loved one for our Christmas Garden this year please complete the information below and return the form with payment to the church office no later than Monday, December 16th to be included in the printed bulletin.

In memory of: _____

Given By: _____

Envelope #: _____ Amount: _____ Check # _____

Donor: _____ Cash _____

In honor of: _____

Given By: _____

Envelope #: _____ Amount: _____ Check # _____

Donor: _____ Cash _____

***Thank you for your donation!
May the joy of the Lord fill your hearts this Christmas Season.***

Checks can be made out to:
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church - Christmas Memorial Garden
1115 Greenbrier Street St. Paul, MN 55106

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

1115 Greenbrier Street

St. Paul, MN 55110