



Bible Songs of Christmas
The Song of Zechariah



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthlutheran.org

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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WELCOME

We are glad that you have chosen to spend time with us in worship. In our worship, we gather, before Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to offer him our love and praise. Our Lord builds us up in faith through his Word and equips us for living now and in eternity. Our prayer is that the good news of Christ's love touches your heart and transforms your life. Whether you're worshipping with us here today or watching online, we are happy you have joined us.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience today easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [P] are spoken by the pastor, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation. If you prefer to use a physical hymnal or wish to see the songs in four-part harmony, there are hymnals available in the pew stands.

Tonight's order of service follows Evening Prayer which begins on page 215 in the hymnal.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Service: Our final Advent services for this year will be on **Thursday, December 18th at 7:00pm**. There will be a soup supper starting at 6:00pm. You may bring a soup, side, or dessert to share - or simply come to enjoy food and fellowship.

Preschool Christmas Program: Little Lambs Learning Center will be having their Christmas program on **Friday, December 19th at 6:00pm**. Everyone is invite to come hear the students share about their Savior's birth! There will be refreshments & fellowship following the program. If you would like to help or donate food, please scan the QR code to sign-up:



Children's Christmas Service: Our Sunday School students will be having their Christmas service on **Sunday, December 21st at 2:00pm**. They have been working hard as they prepare to lead the service through songs and narrations.

Candlelight Christmas Eve: We will be having a traditional candlelight service on **Wednesday December 24th at 5:00pm**, led by Elder Ryan Bogart. We hope you will be able to come be a part of this special evening!

Christmas Day Service: Our Christmas Day service will be **Thursday December 25th at 9:00am**, led by Elder Ryan Bogart. Please join us as we rejoice in the birth of our King!

Giving Tree for the Women's Care Center: Our *Giving Tree* in the entrance area is decorated with ornaments of items needed by the Women's Care Center, including toys, candy, & gift cards. Please tape the paper ornament to the unwrapped gift and place it in the box by the tree by **Friday, December 19th**. This is a wonderful way we can support mothers who have opted for life for their babies! If you have any questions or would like someone to shop for you, contact Kim Kirkland.

For more announcements and event information, visit the church website at www.dulutheran.org/events or sign up for our weekly email at www.dulutheran.org/subscribe. You can also view the church calendar at www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar.

OPENING SENTENCES

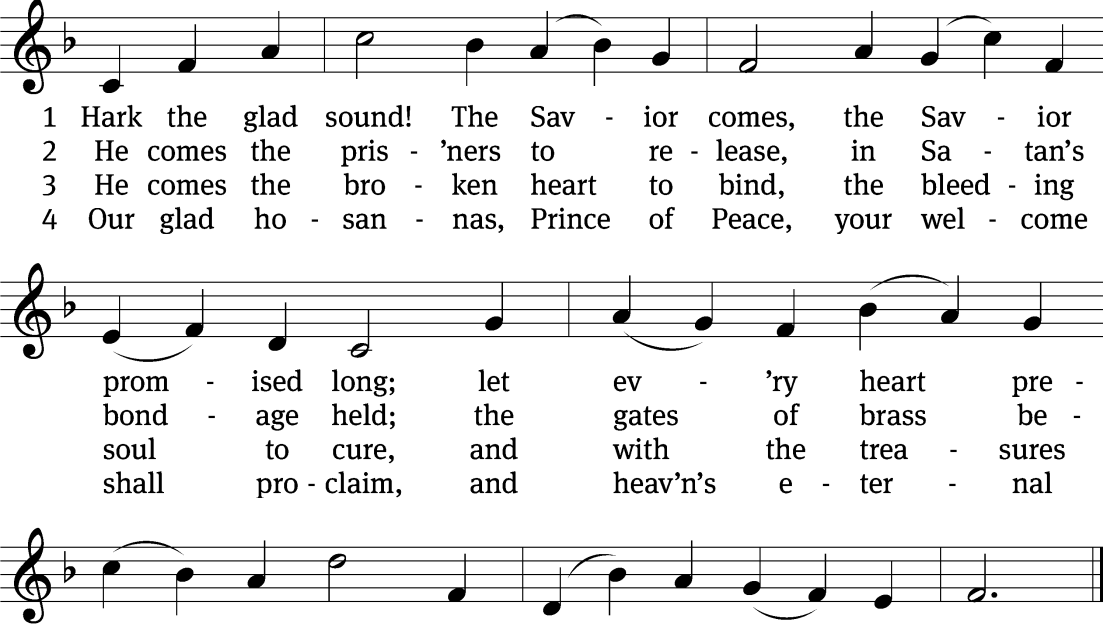
P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
 C: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
 C: **and the day is almost over.**

P: Be our light and scatter the darkness,
 C: **and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

HYMN: Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CW 313



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

PRAYER

P: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us, and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. By your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

PSALM PRAYER

P: Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

READING

Luke 1:57–79

⁵⁷When the time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they were rejoicing with her. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. They wanted to call him Zechariah after the name of the father. ⁶⁰But his mother answered, “No. He will be called John.”

⁶¹They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” ⁶²They made signs to his father, to see what he wanted to name him.

⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they were all amazed.

⁶⁴Immediately Zechariah's mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came on all who lived around them. In the entire hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶And everyone who heard this took it to heart, saying, “What then will this child be?” Clearly, the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people.

⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets.

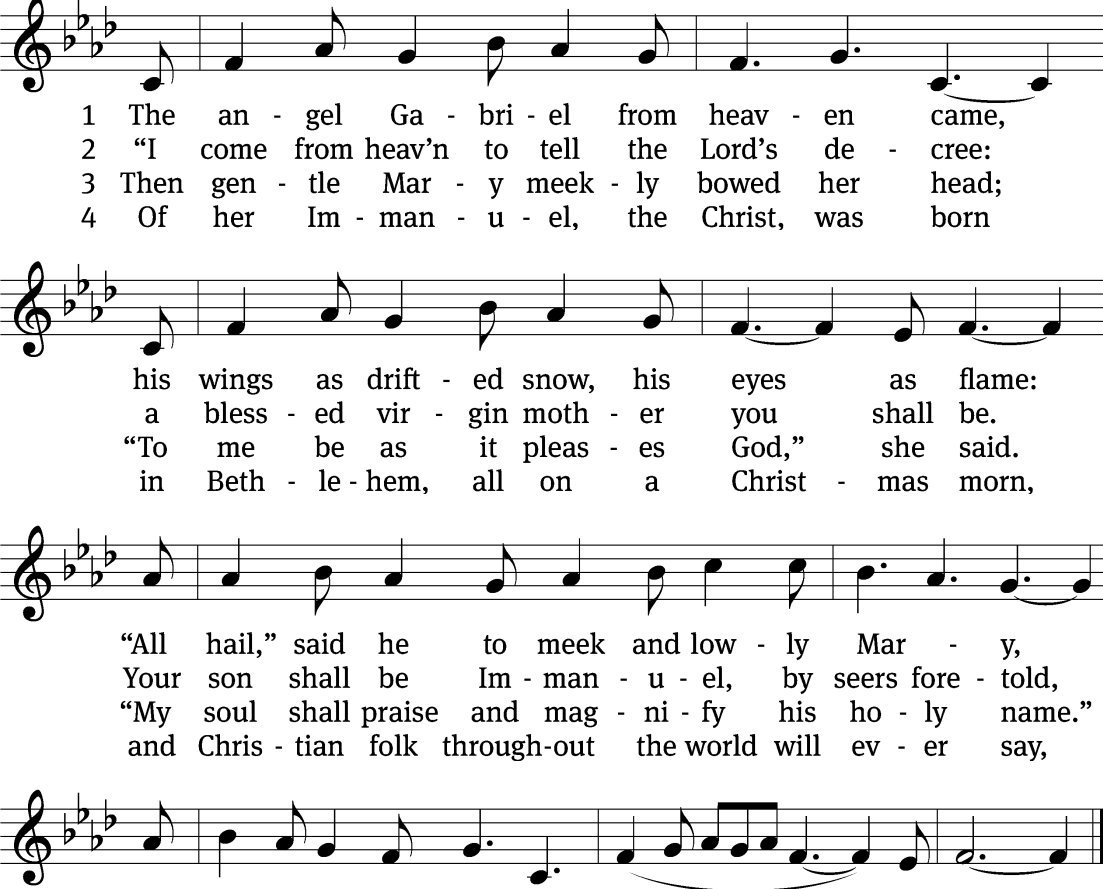
⁷¹He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,
⁷²in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath which he swore to Abraham our father, ⁷⁴to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies,
so that we are able to serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,
because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸because of God's tender mercies, by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us,
⁷⁹to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

CW 328



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:
a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.
"To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,
Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,

"most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

✱ THE MESSAGE ✱

Bible Songs of Christmas:
The Song of Zechariah

HYMN: Blessed Be the God of Israel

CW 954

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who
 2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the
 3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord, you

comes to set us free and rais - es up new
 cov - e - nant re - call, the oath once sworn to
 will pre - pare the way, to tell God's peo - ple

hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all,
 they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph - ets long de - clared that
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine

with a might - y arm God would turn back our
 of - fer lives of praise, in ho - li - ness and
 forth and nev - er cease to drive a - way the

en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
 gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Be seated

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS



Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully and freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to make a donation. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, scan the QR code here or visit our website: www.duluthlutheran.org and click on the "GIVE" tab.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:

C: **to you, O Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Eternal God, you fulfilled your promise to give us a Messiah from David's household. In Jesus Christ you have clothed us with life and fed us the living bread that came down from heaven. Crowned with the victory of his resurrection, we shout for joy.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN: O Bless the Lord, My Soul

CW 623



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with-in me join and
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mer - cies lie for -
3 'Tis he for - gives your sins, 'tis he re - lieves your pain, 'tis
4 He fills the poor with good; he gives the suf - f'ers rest. The
5 His won-drous works and ways he made by Mo - ses known but



aid my tongue to bless his name whose fa - vors are di - vine.
got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness and with - out prais - es die.
he that heals your sick - ness - es and makes you young a - gain.
Lord has judg - ments for the proud and jus - tice for th'op - pressed.
sent the world his truth and grace by his be - lov - ed Son.

Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Christian Worship

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