

# Christmas at Calvary

## Christmas Day Worship

December 25, 2024

9:30 a.m.



THE GIFT OF GOD

**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
9807 Church Road  
Dallas, TX 75238 + 214-348-5567  
[calvarydallas.org](http://calvarydallas.org)

# THE GIFT OF GOD

## God Gives Himself as One of Us

### WELCOME

**Welcome to worship!** We are glad that you have joined us to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Our service is printed for you in its entirety in this worship folder. If you need anything, please speak to an usher at the rear of the sanctuary.

- **Restrooms** are located in the narthex/lobby.
- **Infants Quiet Place** - If you have a young child or nursing infant and are in need of a quiet place, you will find a comfortable bench as you enter either restroom. Both are also equipped with baby changing stations. A speaker there allows you to hear the service.
- **Connection cards** are found at either end of every pew. We ask that before worship or during the offering announcements you fill those out. You can return the card in the offering plate or simply leave it in the pew for our ushers to collect. You may also fill out a Connection Card electronically by following the QR code located on page 14 of this service folder.
- **Prayer before worship** - Father, open my heart to hear and believe your word, so that through faith your Son may take his rightful place not just in the manger, but also within my heart. In his name I pray. Amen.

### THE GIFT OF GOD

When a father puts gifts under the Christmas tree, it is not to compensate his children for doing their chores. That would make whatever is inside that wrapping paper a wage, not a gift. A gift is given voluntarily simply so the giver can show favor to the one receiving the gift, without any expectation of repayment. In the season of Christmas, we receive the gift of God. That does not simply mean we receive the gifts God gives. When we look into the manger, we see that God is the gift.

In the person of Jesus, God gave us himself. And because our God became true man and did everything necessary for our salvation, he is able to give us so many other Christmas gifts: forgiveness, hope, peace, a place in his family, eternal life in paradise. *“That is too much!”* you object. *“I don’t deserve any of it!”* True enough. However, none of these things are wages. We could not and need not earn them. Because they are gifts, given by our gracious God to show us his favor.

In the Twelve Days of Christmas, our worship follows this pattern.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

First Sunday after Christmas

Epiphany of Our Lord

*God Gives Heaven’s Best Gift in Earth’s Unlikeliest Place*

*God Gives Himself As One of Us*

*God Gives Both Substitute and Sacrifice*

*The Gift of God Is for All People*

## + ORDER OF SERVICE +

### OPENING HYMN

353 – Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



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.

### GREETING

*Please stand*

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

**Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. **Amen.**

## + PRAYER AND PRAISE +

### LORD, HAVE MERCY

For the blessed conviction that you are the Son of God, and that you were born in Bethlehem to keep the Law of God perfectly in our place and to give you life into death for our redemption, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the determination to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness to all the world and to administer the Sacraments faithfully according to your institution, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For your blessing on us as a fellowship of believers united in you, eager to do your will, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Merciful Lord, open our eyes to behold your glory as the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Amen.**

The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise:

*Please be seated*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Sung by the Choir*

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

*On this day the earth shall ring With the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us; Him the Father gave us.  
Ideo, Ideo, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came down to earth  
Bethlehem saw his birth; Shepherds kneel before him, Worship and adore him.  
Ideo, Ideo, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring,  
Praising Christ, heaven's King, Born on earth to save us; Peace and love he gave us.  
Ideo, Ideo, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## +THE WORD +

### FIRST READING

Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

*To reveal himself to us, God hid himself in human flesh.  
To reveal himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.*

EXODUS 33:18 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

<sup>19</sup>And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup>But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

<sup>21</sup>Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. <sup>22</sup>When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup>Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."...

...EXODUS 34:5 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. <sup>6</sup>And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

## PSALM OF THE DAY

98F – God Has Done Such Marvelous Things



1 God has done such marvelous things;  
3 Sing with the harp and the trumpet strong;



sing to the LORD a new song. God's great might all the  
sing to the LORD a new song. To the LORD let your



earth now sings. Sing to the LORD a new song.  
praise pro - long. Sing to the LORD a new song.



God's great power now is shown.  
To the King lift up your voice.



"God has triumphed," make it known. Sing it out, sing it  
Shout your praise, in God rejoice. Sing it out, sing it



loud and strong; sing to the LORD a new song.  
loud and strong; sing to the LORD a new song.

## SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:31,32

*If the Father was willing to give us the gift of his only Son, clearly there is no good thing he would withhold from us.*

ROMANS 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

## VERSE OF THE DAY

*sung by the cantor*

366 (1) - Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly

*O rejoice, all Christians, loudly,  
for our joy has now begun;  
wondrous things our God has done.  
Tell abroad his goodness proudly,  
who our race has honored thus,  
that he has befriended us.*

*Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness!  
Christ has done away with sadness!  
Hence, all sorrow and repining,  
for the Sun of grace is shining!*

*Please stand for the Gospel*

## GOSPEL READING

John 1:15-18

*John's "theological" account of the first Christmas.*

<sup>15</sup>JOHN 1:15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

## CHRISTMAS GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

350 (3) – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Hail, the heav'nly 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 us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

*Please be seated*

HYMN OF THE DAY

358 – Of The Father’s Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.  
 and ex - tol our God and King.  
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,  
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,  
 Now he shines, the long - ex - spect - ed;  
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,  
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.



## Christmas Had to Be This Way!

*After the sermon, please stand*

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

(From the Athanasian Creed)

**Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith.**

**Now this is the true Christian faith:**

**We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,  
Is both God and man.**

***He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,***

**Equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;  
And though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one,  
One, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;  
One indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;  
For just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,  
So God and man are one Christ.**

**He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,  
And from there will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies.**

**This is the true Christian faith.**

*Please be seated*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS and MUSICAL OFFERING

*We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of  
God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.*

*Offerings can be given in any of these ways:*

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



*Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card,  
or by filling out the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection  
Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website,  
<https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the QR code above.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*You may remain seated for prayer.*

Family of God, Christ our Savior is born and our salvation has been revealed, in keeping with the promises made so long ago. **Oh, come, let us adore him.**

Lord God, Father of us all, You provided Your Son an earthly mother to bear and provide for Him. You instructed Joseph to take Mary as his wife, and thus to provide for Jesus' physical needs. Thank You for the gift of parents, who serve as "masks" of Your loving care. Bless all parents everywhere with the wisdom, the patience, the love and the good humor they need to train their children in the way they should go. We ask it in the name of the newborn King: **Oh, come, let us adore him.**

Lord of the nations, the psalmist says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord". We are Your people, and You have made us citizens of a nation that is so richly blessed in so many ways. We pray for the leaders of our country; give them wise and discerning hearts. May they make, administer and interpret our laws in keeping with Your will. We ask it in the name of Jesus, who is the King of kings: **Oh, come, let us adore him.**

It is true, dear God, that even after 2,000 years, many people still live as enemies of the truth of the Gospel. We who are here today may not be able to reach huge numbers of people, but we *can* reach out to the ones who live and work around us. Make us willing, Father. King David said, "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise" (Ps. 51:15); do the same for us today! Bring the lost to faith in Jesus Christ. He is the Savior of the *world*: **Oh, come, let us adore him.**

Lord Jesus, many of Your followers are being brutally persecuted — even killed — because they will not deny their faith. They suffer so much, and their boldness and courage are an incredible testimony that can even lead their persecutors to believe in You and be saved! Watch over them, Lord. Bless them with Your presence even in the darkest times. Give them the strength to endure, and inspire us through their sufferings, so that we are willing to serve You too. Preserve Your Church, O God, until that day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess, "Jesus Christ is Lord: **Oh, come, let us adore him.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

# + THE SACRAMENT +

## PREFACE AND SEASONAL SENTENCE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

## GLORIA

*Sung by the Calvary Choir*

A Joyful Christmas Carol

*As lately we watched o'er our fields through the night,  
A star there was seen of such glorious light;  
All through the night the angels did sing,  
In carols so sweet of the birth of a King.*

*A King of such beauty was ne'er before seen, (Gloria in excelsis!)  
And Mary, His mother, so like to a queen. (Gloria in excelsis!)  
Blest be the hour ad welcome the morn (Gloria in excelsis Deo!)  
For Christ, our dear Savior, on earth now is born. (Gloria in excelsis!)*

*His throne is a manger, His court is a loft, (Sanctus, Sanctus!)  
But hosts of bright angels, in lays sweet and soft, (Sanctus, Sanctus!)  
Him they proclaim, Lord Jesus by name, (Sanctus, Sanctus!)  
And earth, sky, and air now are filled with His fame. (Sanctus, Sanctus!)*

*Then shepherds, be joyful and hail Him, your King, (Gloria!)  
Let hills and dales ring to the song that ye sing; (Gloria!)  
Blest be the hour and welcome the morn, (Gloria!)  
For Christ, our dear Savior, on earth now is born! (Gloria!)*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

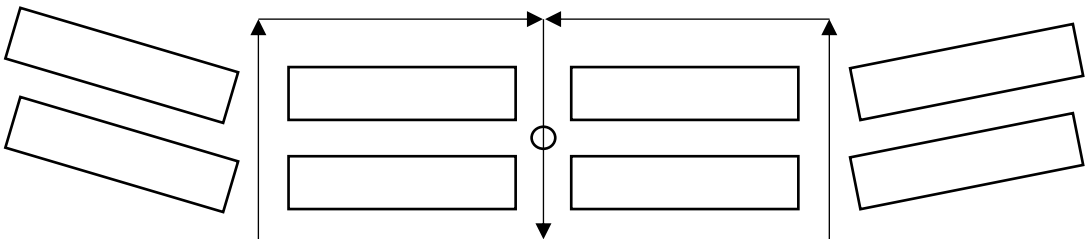
O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are

- O Jesus, Lamb of God, you are  
My comfort and my guiding star;  
I come, a sinner, trustingly  
And bring my many sins with me.**
- O Lord, my sin indeed is great;  
I groan beneath the dreadful weight.  
Be merciful to me, I pray;  
Take guilt and punishment away.**

## DISTRIBUTION

*The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.*

*Enter along the side aisles toward the altar area. Move toward the center (unless otherwise directed). After receiving the Supper, return to your seat down the middle aisle, depositing your cup in the receptacle.*



**Please be seated**

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

356 - God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
2 From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
3 "Fear not," then said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;  
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ, our Sav - ior, was born on Christ - mas Day  
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same,  
this day is born a Sav - ior, the true and ra - diant light,  
and in true love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.  
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."  
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas is filled with heav'n - ly grace.



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

## + THANKSGIVING +

*Please stand*

### CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

332 (1,3) - Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

1. Let us all with gladsome voice  
Praise the God of heaven,  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
His own Son has given.

3. We are rich, for he was poor;  
Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
Here on earth and yonder.

## PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

363 – Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



- 1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
- 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
- 3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth pour in a man - ger lies;  
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty  
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.  
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!  
draw me un - to thee!  
May we praise him there!  
Oh, that we were there!

Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to thee!  
May we praise him there!  
Oh, that we were there!

**Be seated**



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### Hymn 353 – Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

Scripture references: Ps 98; Ge 3:17-19; Rev 22:1-5; Jn 1:17

Text and Tune: Public domain

### Song of Praise – On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Text: Piaë Cantiones, 1582, Tr. Jane M. Joseph, 1824-1929

Tune: Hal H. Hopson, based on PERSONENT HODIE

From Piaë Contiones, 1582

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### Psalm 98F – God Has Done Such Marvelous Things

Text: Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Spanish

Text: © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers

Tune: Public domain

### Hymn 366 - Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Christian Keimann, 1607-1662

Tune: Andreas Hammerschmidt, 1611-1675, alt.

Scripture references: Lk 2:7-14; 2 Co 8:9; Isa 35:10; Luke 1:78,79

Text and tune: Public domain

### Hymn 350 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Scripture references: Lk 2:13,14; Ro 5:10,11; Col 2:9; Jn 11:25,26

Text and tune: Public domain

### Hymn 358 – Of The Father's Love Begotten

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-c.413, abr.; (sts. 1-4): tr.

John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; (t. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker,

1821-1877, alt.

Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.

Scripture references: Ac 13:32,33; Heb1:1-9; Ps 2:7; Lk 1:26-38; Ps 148; Php

3:9-11

Text and tune: Public domain

### A Joyful Christmas Carol

An Austrian Carol arranged by Carl E. Wacker

Dedicated to Pastor O. Wm. and Sue Luecke, Bethlehem

Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas.

Copyright © 1979 Cantate Choral Publishers, Tacoma, WA 98401

### Hymn 27 (CW 1993) - O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are

Text: Bartholomäus Helder, 1585-1635; , tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: C.P.E. Bach, 1714-1788

Text and tune: Public domain

### Hymn 356 - God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Text: English, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.

Tune: English

Scripture references: Lk 2:1-14; Ro 12:10

Text and tune: Public domain

### Hymn 332 - Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; German, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Dreszdenischen GesangBuchs, Dresden, 1632, alt.

Scripture references: 2 Co 8:9; Lk 2:20

Text and tune: Public domain

### Hymn 363 – Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Text: tr. Arthur T. Russel, 1806-1874, alt.; Latin and German, 14<sup>th</sup> cent.

Tune: German, 14<sup>th</sup> cent., alt.

Scripture references: Isa 9:2-7; Lk 2:1-14; Jn 6:44; 12:32; Rev 7:9-12

Text and tune: Public domain

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