

# Zion Lutheran

**Mission: Creating Community Through  
God's Love and Guidance**



**First Sunday of Christmas**  
December 29, 2024

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

**(The assembly speaks the bold print)**

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### **PRELUDE**

Please respect this time before worship for those who want to pray quietly in the sanctuary. Once the prelude begins, please use that time to listen to the music and prepare for worship. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **PRELUDE**

**“Away in a Manger”**  
played by Linda Wirtz-cello

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN#267**

**“Joy to the World ”**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.  
**Amen.**

**Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.**

God-with-us,  
**we confess that we have turned away  
those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
We have overlooked the shepherds,  
expecting good news in prettier packaging.  
Too often, we have valued violence  
instead of your peace.  
Turn us from our ways to your ways.  
Grant us the grace to begin again.  
Free us from all that keeps us bound,  
and forgive our sin,  
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!  
You are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,  
and forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy.  
**Amen.**

### **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

A reading from 1 Samuel.

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. <sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

### **PSALM148**

sung to the melody  
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

- 1 Praise the Lord! Praise from the heavens; praise Him in the heights above!
- 2 Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts who know His love.
- 3 Praise Him, sun and moon, and praise Him all you shining stars of light.
- 4 Praise Him, all you highest heavens, and you waters in the height.
  
- 5 Let them praise the Lord's name, for He spoke and they all came to be;
- 6 He set them in place forever—everlasting His decree.
- 7 Praise the Lord from all the earth, all ocean depths and creatures there;
- 8 Lightning, hail, snow, clouds, and winds that do His bidding everywhere.
  
- 9 Praise Him, mountains and all hills, all fruit trees and all cedars too;
- 10 Creeping things and flying birds, all cattle and wild creatures too.
- 11 Kings of earth and all you nations, princes, rulers everywhere;
- 12 Young men, maidens, old men, children—let all earth His praise declare.
  
- 13 Let them ever praise the Lord's name; His name is exalted high;  
For His splendor and His glory are above the earth and sky.
- 14 He has lifted up a horn for His own people all their days;  
Is-ra-el, the people near Him—give the Lord wholehearted praise!

## **SECOND READING**

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Setting 5



### GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:41-52

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup> He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Vicar Jake

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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**

**God of grace, receive our prayer.**

**PEACE**

**The peace of the Lord be with you. And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN**

**“O Holy Night”  
played by Linda Wirtz-cello**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**God of heaven and earth,  
from the beginning, you have called forth life,  
in which you take delight.**

**The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.  
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,  
that we may join the chorus of creation  
to tell of your salvation from day to day.**

**Amen.**

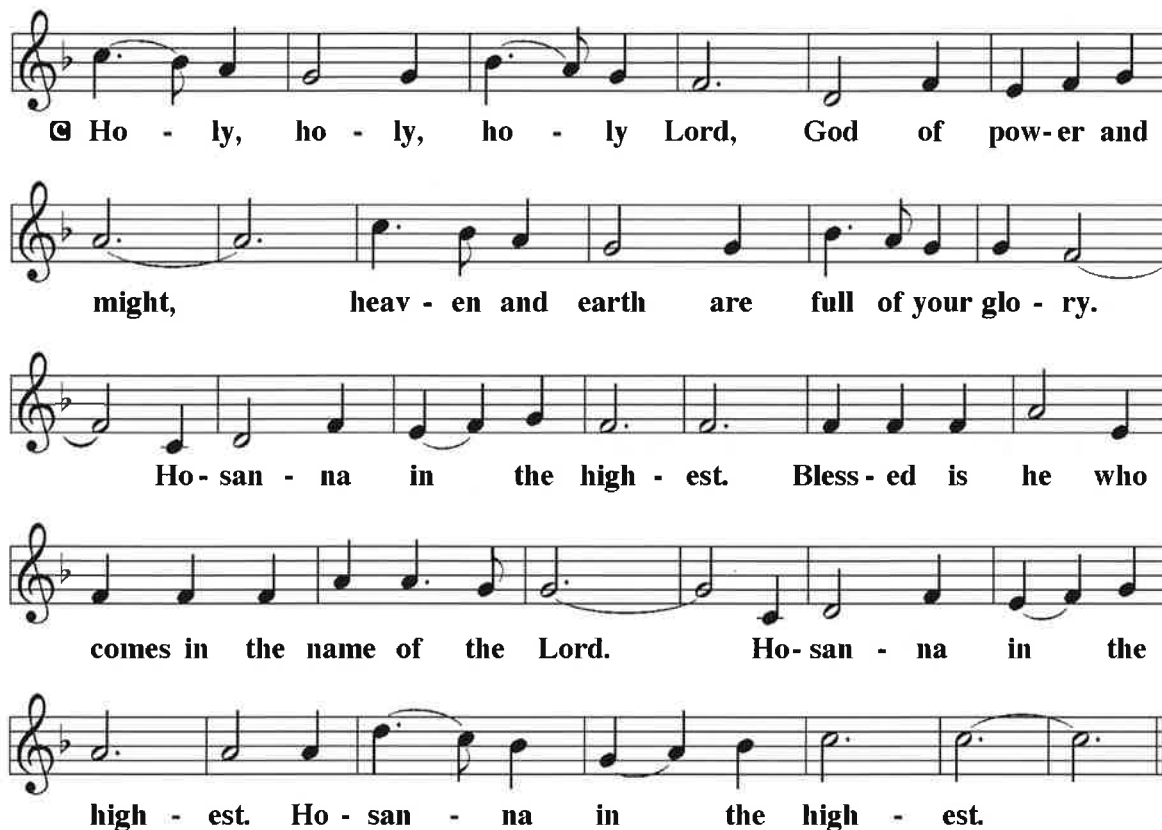
## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

### HOLY HOLY HOLY

Setting 5



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

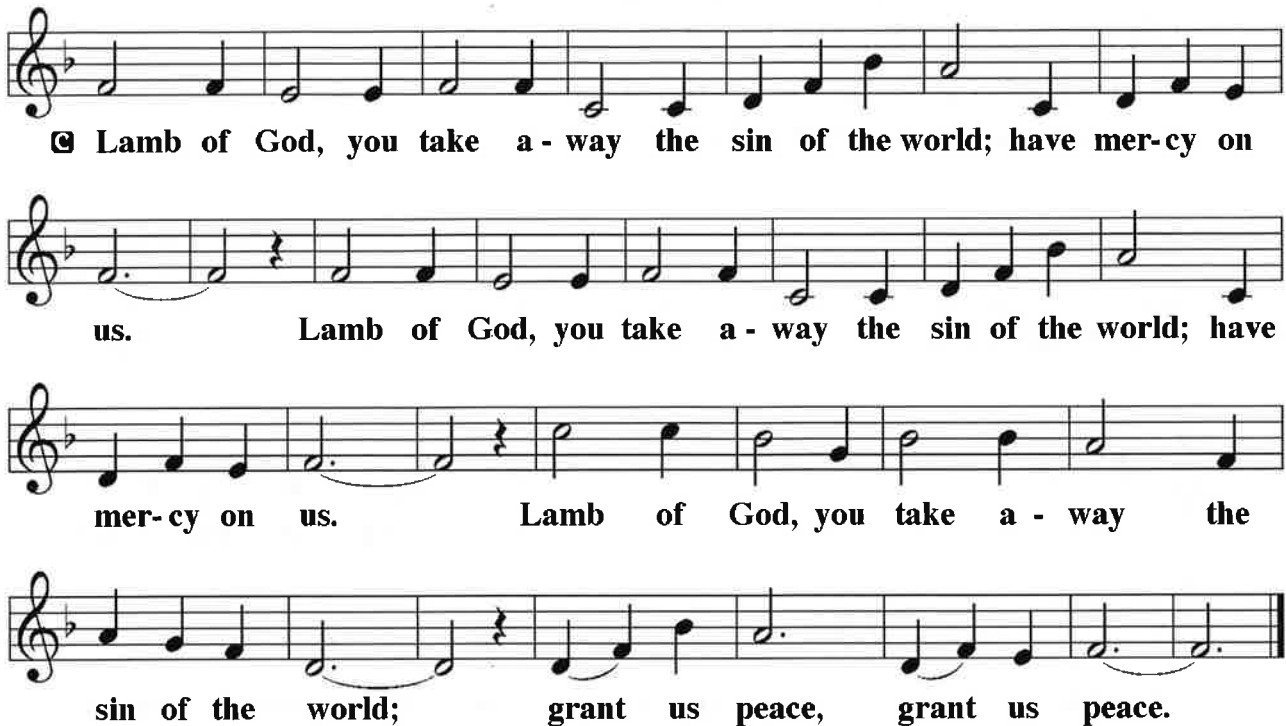
## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### THE 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.**

## LAMB OF GOD

Setting 5



**☉** 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.  
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

### COMMUNION

#### COMMUNION HYMN#290

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

### TABLE BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God,  
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness,  
send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted,  
and share the good news of great joy.  
**Amen.**



## **BLESSING**

The God of love,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path,  
and increase your joy,  
today and always.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN#299**

“Cold December Flies Away”

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**Creating Community through God’s Love and Guidance —  
thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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**Pastor:** Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

**Assisting Minister:** Tommy Meltz

**Reader:** Jo Schiedermayer

**Acolyte:** Lily Gruselle

**Office Coordinator:** Kimberly Gordon kimberly@zionappleton.org

**Church Administrator:** Karen Farlow karen@zionappleton.org

**Maintenance Engineer:** Elliot Pegel

**Parish Nurse:** Kandie Wilz kw4421333@gmail.com (920) 442-1333

**Worship & Music Assistant:** Heather Watney

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**Choir Director:** Cheryl Meyer

**Handbells:** Paula Staedt

**Song Leaders:** Cheryl Meyer & Wendy Sachs

**Hospitality Coordinator:** Lynn Walter lynn@zionappleton.org

**Outreach Coordinator:** Brianne Connelly

**Zion Lutheran 920-739-3104**

**Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30am-2pm. Closed Friday.**

**The office will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 31 & Wednesday,**

**Jan. 1. zion@zionappleton.org • www.zionappleton.org**

For Pastoral emergencies contact the office.

**Welcome!**

We invite visitors to complete the card in the pew and put it in the collection basket. Thank You!

Attendance Last Week: 87

Last Year: 92

### **Announcements!**

All **2024** donations/offerings need to be received in the office by **December 31, 2024**.

If you purchased a poinsettia, you may pick it up after the service today. Please do not choose one of the artificial poinsettias.

Thank you for your generosity.

Luke 3 verse 11 reminds us to give a coat to anyone who doesn't have one. We are collecting coats through Dec 29th for Pillars Resource Center located at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Appleton. Please place your gently used winter coats in the red bins in the back of the sanctuary.

**Next Sunday is Epiphany Sunday.** After church there will be an Epiphany Brunch in the fellowship hall for anyone who signed up. The brunch will be catered by Chef Joe Worden, formally chef at Grand Meridian.

Take a candy cane ornament from our Giving Tree at the back of church. There are items to buy for the blessing box & St. Joe's Pantry. There are also envelopes for monetary donations to St. Joe's Food Pantry & the Blessing Box. The Giving Tree will remain active through Epiphany (Sun, Jan 5).

Each week a Daily Discipleship, which is a take home Bible Study, will be on the tables at the back of sanctuary for you to take with you. It will also be on the website in the section where the weekly bulletin is.

There will not be Tower Ringerz rehearsals on January 1. The Zion Choir will not be rehearsing on January 5 & January 12.

Thanks to a very generous donation from a Zion member, we have installed an upgraded sound system in our church sanctuary. The system will improve the quality of the sound in the church as well as on YouTube for our remote viewers as well.

Lynn has gift cards for sale today. They are Fleet Farm, Pick N Save, Target & Walgreens. She is also available to take any other gift card orders you may need. The list of what gift cards are available is in the narthex.

Linwood Community at 425 N. Linwood Ave. Appleton is sponsoring an event on Thursday, January 16th at 2 pm. Their Wellness Coordinator Yon will present some ideas on how to set attainable goals for 2025. It's a tradition for many people to make resolutions for the New Year, but the fact remains that most resolutions are made without much thought and usually thrown to the wayside. There is a better approach that we can take as we face the coming year.

The annual meeting for Zion will be Sunday, Feb. 9th after the service. Some of the committees you can be a part of are: Council, Nominating Committee, Zion's Foundation/ Endowment Committee & Zion Place Committee. We also need delegates to attend some local conferences. They are East Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod Assembly, East Central Synod Appleton Conference, Crossways Camping Ministries, Linwood Community Appleton, Miravida Living-Oshkosh & Bethany Home-Waupaca. If you are interested in any of these please let one of the council members know.

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**Sunday, December 29**

1 Sam 2:18-20, 26; Ps 148

Col 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

Coffee Hour

No Choir Rehearsal

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

No Coffee Hour

**1st Sunday of Christmas**

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Tommy Meltz

Reader: Jo Schiedermayer

Acolyte: Lily Gruselle

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens: Greg Pettigrew

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

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Monday, January 13, 2024

Submissions due for Febuary's calendar

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**Wednesday, January 1**

Office Closed

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No Tower RingerZ Rehearsal

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**Sunday, January 5**

Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14

Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12

No Choir Rehearsal

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

followed by

**Epiphany Brunch**

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**Epiphany of Our Lord/Baptism of Our Lord**

Assisting Minister: Grace Van Eyck

Acolyte: Freya Budde

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Greg Pettigrew

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

# 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 all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row 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 righ - teous -



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.

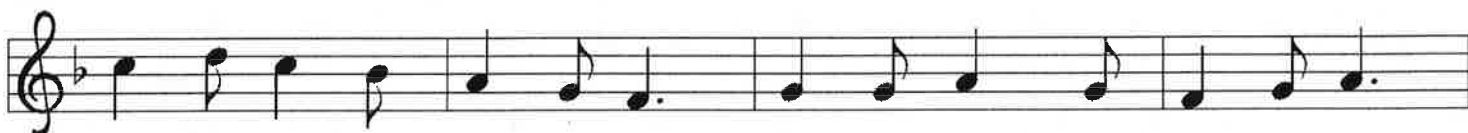
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



- 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;



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!



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.



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!

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

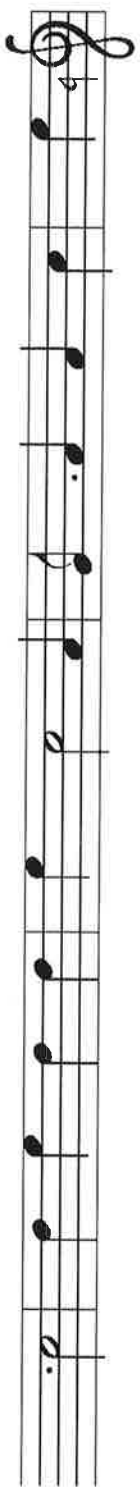
*Refrain*



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;



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.

*Refrain*

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

# Cold December Flies Away



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.  
 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.  
 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders  
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.  
 In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the  
 But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en  
 And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the  
 light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est  
 birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.  
 hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.  
 spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953  
 Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalonian carol  
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