**Sts. Peter & Paul**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

Founded-1917



**DECEMBER 24, 2023**

699 Stambaugh Avenue

Sharon, Pennsylvania 16146

“I was glad when they said to me,

Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

***Psalm 122:1***

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Opening Hymn: LSB #379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Stand

**Invocation and Opening: Spoken responsively**

P O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Lesson (1): Genesis 3: 1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the coolof the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,  
    cursed are you above all livestock  
    and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
    and dust you shall eat  
    all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
    and between your offspringand her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
    and you shall bruise his heel.”

Hymn: LSB #380 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Old Testament Lesson (2): Genesis 3: 16-24

To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;  
    in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,  
    but he shall rule over you.”

And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
    and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
    ‘You shall not eat of it,’  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
    in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
    and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
By the sweat of your face  
    you shall eat bread,  
till you return to the ground,  
    for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust,  
    and to dust you shall return.”

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Hymn: LSB #387 “Joy to the World”**

**Old Testament Lesson (3): Isaiah 7:10-14**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Hymn: LSB #367 “Angels from the Realms of Glory” stanzas 1-2, 4**

**Old Testament Lesson (4): Micah 5:2-5**

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
    who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
    from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
    to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
    in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth.  
And he shall be their peace.

When the Assyrian comes into our land  
    and treads in our palaces,  
then we will raise against him seven shepherds  
    and eight princes of men;

**Quartet: LSB #386 “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”**

**Old Testament Lesson (5): Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
    are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
    who publishes salvation,  
    who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”  
The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
    together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
    the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
    you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people;  
    he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
    before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
    the salvation of our God.

**Hymn: LSB #383 “A Great and Mighty Wonder”**

**Epistle Lesson (1): Titus 2:11-14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**Hymn: LSB #897 “O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly” stanzas 1 & 2**

**Epistle Lesson (2): Galatians 4:1-7**

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**Hymn: LSB #897 “O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly” stanzas 3-4**

Stand

**Gospel Lesson (1): Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Sit

**Hymn: LSB #377 “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”**

Stand

**Gospel Lesson (2): Luke 2:8-14**

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,  
    and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Sit

**Hymn: LSB #368 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

Stand

**Gospel Lesson (3): Luke 2:15-20**

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Sit

**Hymn: LSB #358 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”**

Stanzas 1-5: Quartet

Stanzas 6-7: All

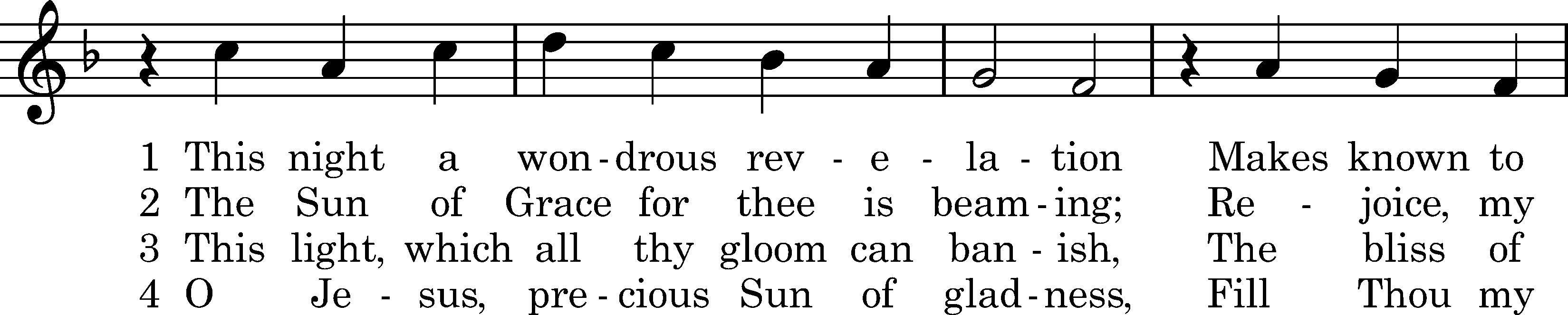
*Stanzas 8-9: Men, only*

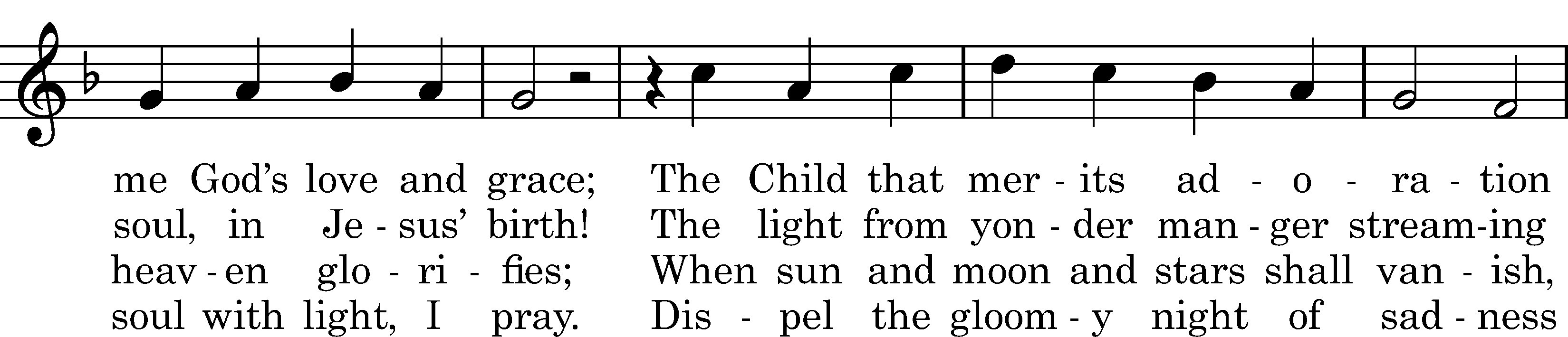
*Stanzas 10-11: Women, only*

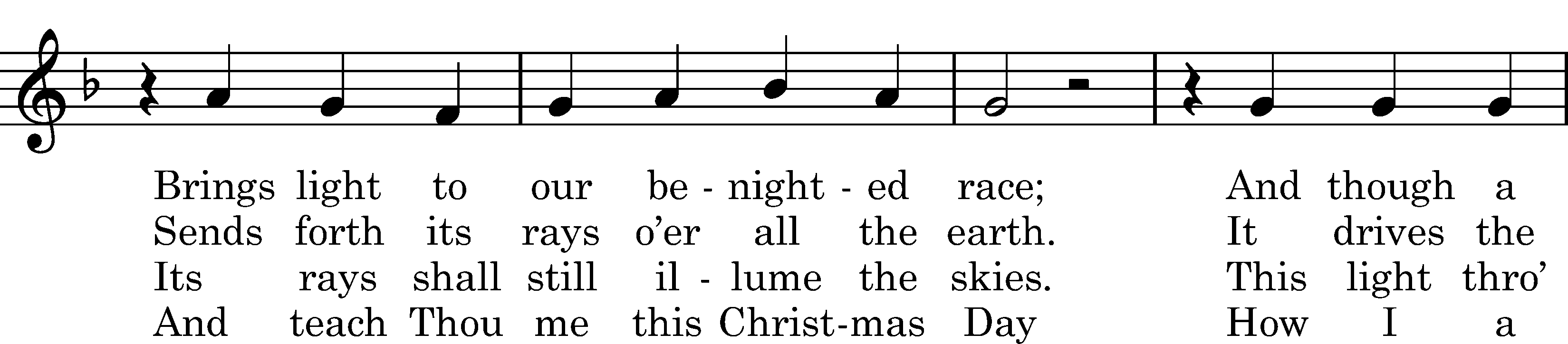
Stanzas 12-15: All

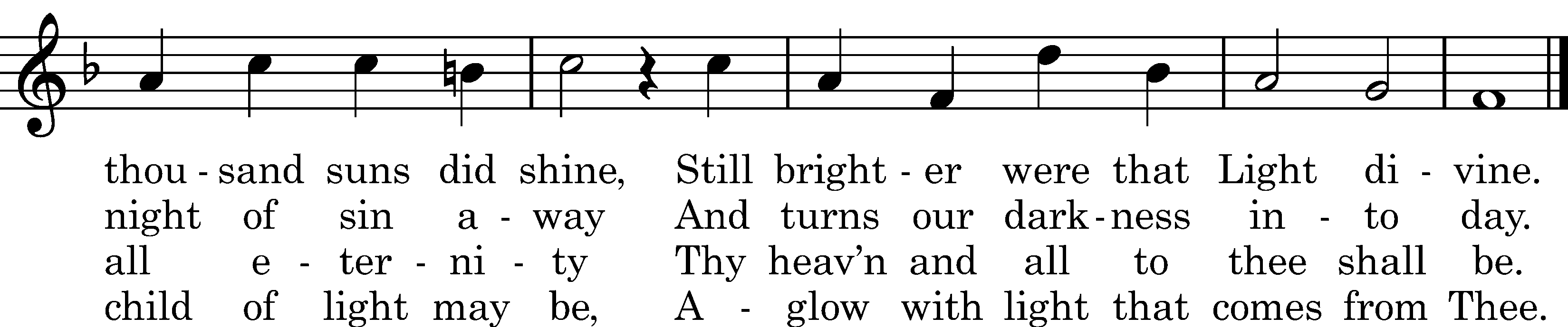
**Sermon**

**Hymn: TLH #88 “This Night a Wondrous Revelation”**









Text: tr. Anna Hoppe, 1922; Caspar F. Nachtenhoefer, c. 1683, alt. Tune: Johann B. Koenig, 1738 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

**Kyrie: Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**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.**

**Collect**

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Sit

**Hymn: TLH #82 “Come Rejoicing, Praises Voicing”**

*(Soloist. All are welcome to join in.)* Cas radosti, veselosti svetu nastal nyni; Neb Buh vecny nekonecny, narodil se z panny; V mestecku Betleme, v jeslickach na slame Lezi male pacholatko na zime; Lezi male pacholatko na zime.

**Come rejoicing, Praises voicing, Christmas Day is breaking; How th’ Eternal, Lord supernal Human form is taking. On the hay - lo, behold Virgin’s Son as foretold - Lies the precious Infant in the wintry cold, Lies the precious Infant in the wintry cold.**

**Unabated, For Him waited Many generations; Him now proudly Angels loudly Praise the Hope of nations. Let us, then, gladly sing, Let our songs gaily ring, As we to this holy Child our praises bring, As we to this holy Child our praises bring.**

**Tender Flower, Mighty Tower, Jesus Christ, our Savior; Heav’nly Treasure, Without measure Thee we love forever. Lord and King without end, Our poor hearts now befriend, All Thy gifts of grace and goodness to us send, All Thy gifts of grace and goodness to us send. Amen.**

Stand

**Christmas Eve Prayer for Peace**

P O Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, in Your kingdom of righteousness no sword is drawn except the sword of the Spirit, Your Holy Word. We come to You this night seeking the peace that only You cangive. We pray that You would bestow Your blessed peace upon our hearts and minds, and that through us, You might spread Your peace to all mankind. By Your suffering, death and resurrection fill us with the peace that passes all understanding, that our hearts may be guarded in faith until the day You return to deliver us to Your eternal kingdom of peace where You live and reign forever and ever, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

**Benedicamus and Benediction**

P Let us bless the Lord.

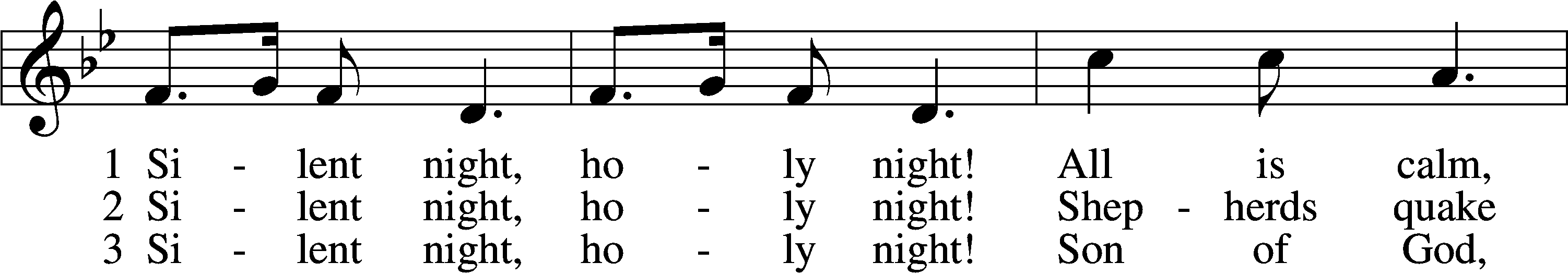
C **Thanks be to God.**

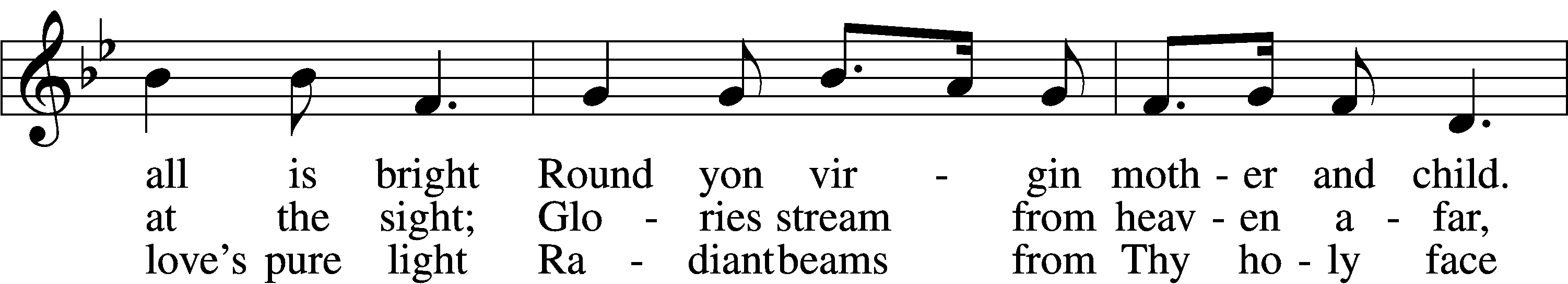
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

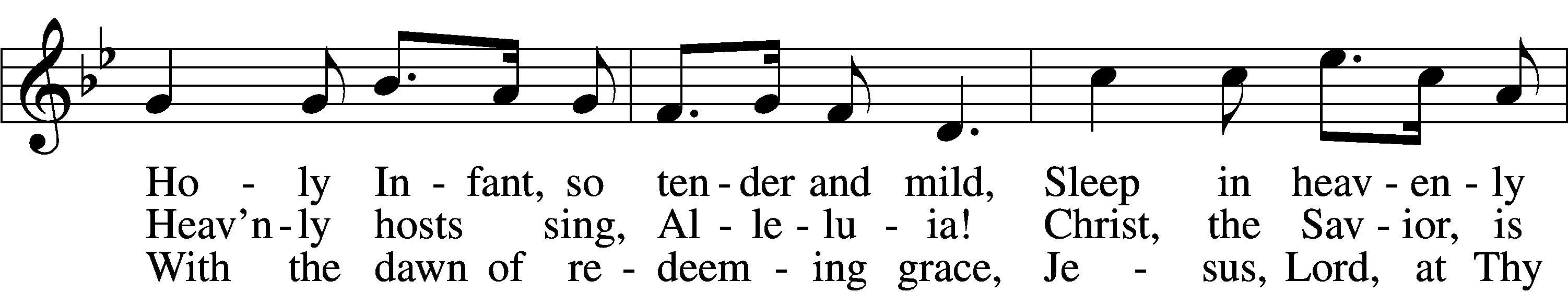
C **Amen.**

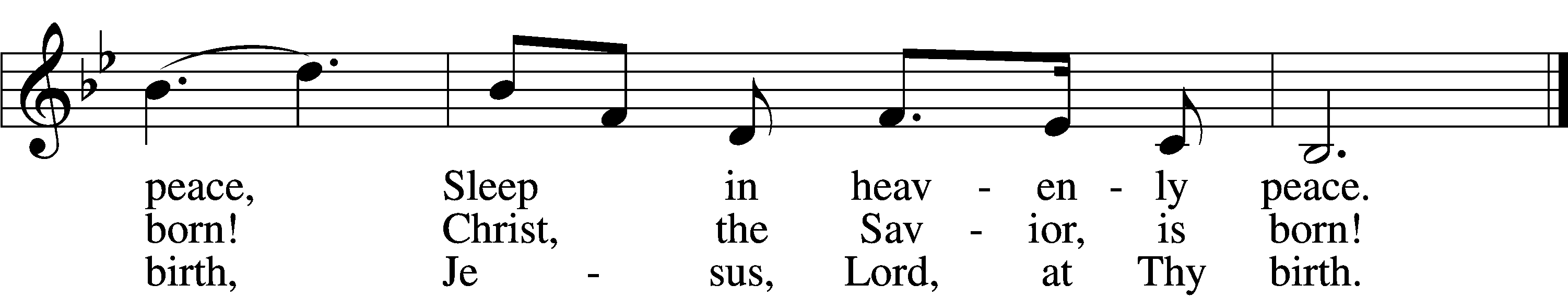
**Candle Lighting:**The ushers will light their candles from Pastor’s candle and will, then, light the candle of the person at the end of each pew. As you pass the flame to your neighbor, please be sure to tip only the unlit candle.

**Closing Hymn: LSB #363 “Silent Night, Holy Night”**









Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863 Text and tune: Public domain

*Please extinguish your candle at the conclusion of the hymn..*

***Silent prayer after worship:*** Lord Jesus, let me not forget that You were born to be my Savior so that I can have forgiveness of sins, peace, hope, and life everlasting. Fill me with Your love, and lead me to share that love always. Amen.

**The poinsettias adorning our Sanctuary have been**

**donated by the following church members:**

*Anonymous:* In Honor of Rev. & Mrs. Deal & Family and Past and Present Church Council Members (1 red and 1 white plant)

*Catherine Carr:* In Loving Memory of Rev. Timothy Carr, Rev. Otto & Millie Brillinger (1 red and 1 white plant)

*Mike & Marie Flaugher:* In Honor of Everyone Who Serves the Church (3 red plants)

*Judith A. Furey:* In Loving Memory of Judith E. Boal, Dorothy Shoenberger, and Viola Sakony (2 large red/white/pink plants)

*Mark Gabriel:* In Loving Memory of Parents, Peter & Anne Gabriel, and Brother, Denny A. Gabriel (1 large red/white/pink plant)

*Henrietta Holcroft:* In Loving Memory of Anson, Vi, and Barry (1 white plant)

*Elizabeth Loughan:* In Loving Memory of William Loughan and Iris & James Reigelman (2 large red/white/pink plants)

*Ruth Meszaros:* In Loving Memory of Ernie Meszaros, My Wonderful Husband of 62 years (1 white plant)

*The Nelson Family:* In Loving Memory of Barry Nelson, Bill & Margie Nelson, John & Mary Ann Krajci; John G. Krajci; Olivia Sovesky; David Nelson; and All Loved Ones (1 red plant and 1 large red/white/pink plant)

*Diane Riefstahl:* In Loving Memory of Parents, Donald L. & Lucile M. Riefstahl, and Brother, Donald C. Riefstahl (1 large red/white/pink plant)

*Mrs. Robert Sulek:* In Loving Memory of My Husband, Robert Sulek (1 red plant)

*Linda Tomko:* In Loving Memory of Lillian & Paul Tomko; Susan & Michael Tomko; and Lillian & George Stull (1 large red/white/pink plants)

