



*As a community following Christ,  
we **LOVE** with an open heart  
**GROW** with a curious mind  
and **SHARE** with a generous spirit.*

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Please turn off all cell phones.*

*If you are visiting with us today, we extend to you a particular welcome  
and invite your questions and comments.*

*Our entire worship service is printed in this worship folder for your  
convenience.*

*Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.*

*Child care is available for children ages 5 years and under in the Child  
Care Area, across from the Life Together Hall.*

In the order of service, the words  
that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

**Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

# **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

## **The Ballad of the Brown King**

*Sunday, December 15, 2023 • 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.*

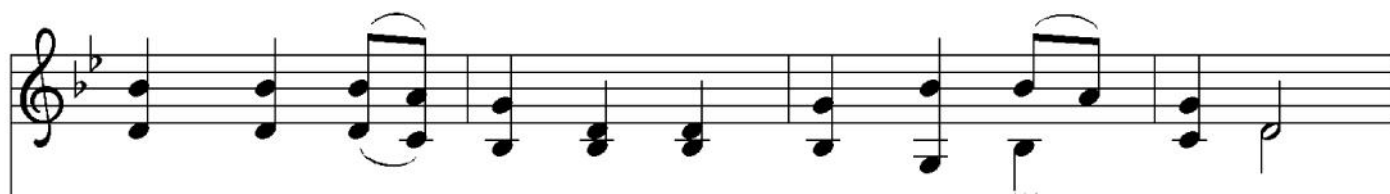
PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

# ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING • "COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE"

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 247*

**Sing twice.**



3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.



Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.



## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*Reader:*

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

***Congregation:***

**Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

*Reader:*

We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

*Light the third candle of the Advent wreath.*

*Stand.*

# OPENING HYMN • "THE FIRST NOEL"

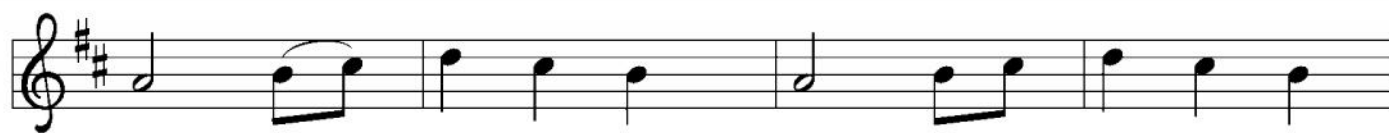
Evangelical Lutheran Worship 300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .  
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

## Refrain



night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Spirit of the Lord God,

you bring good news to the oppressed,  
bind up the brokenhearted,  
proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release the prisoners.

You comfort all who mourn,  
and shower your people with the oil of gladness  
instead of mourning;  
a mantle of praise  
instead of a faint spirit.

We will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
our whole being shall exult in God,  
for the sake of the one  
who brought righteousness to life,  
Jesus Christ our salvation.

**Amen.**

*Sit.*

# The Ballad of the Brown King

A Christmas Cantata

*for Chorus of Mixed Voices*

*Text: Langston Hughes. Music: Margaret Bonds.*





## I. OF THE THREE WISE MEN

*(solo)*

Of the three wise men who came to the King,  
one was a brown man, so they sing.

*(choir)*

Alleluia!

*(solo)*

Of the three wise men who followed the star,  
one was a brown king from afar.

*(choir)*

Alleluia!

## II. THEY BROUGHT FINE GIFTS

They brought fine gifts of silver and gold  
in jeweled boxes of beauty untold.

Unto His humble manger they came.

They came and bowed their heads in Jesus' name.

## III. SING ALLELUIA!

Sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia to our King.

## READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

### Isaiah 61:1-11

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>5</sup>Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; <sup>6</sup>but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. <sup>7</sup>Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### IV. MARY HAD A LITTLE BABY

Mary had a little baby,  
Jesus, that was His name.

All the world became much brighter  
when little Jesus, the Christ-child came.

That was in a lowly manger,  
Outside the night was cold.

But within that lowly manger,  
Behold how warm His love is: Oh, behold!

Mary had a little baby,  
In the night a bright star shone.

I, so lost and lonely, nevermore.

Nevermore shall be alone.

*Stand.*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
let us pray for all people and places  
that long for God's presence.

*At the conclusion of each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations,  
come, and receive these prayers and pleas of our hearts,  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Sit.*

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God of Advent joy,  
we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call.

In this season of anticipation,  
may our gifts help mend what is broken  
and share the promise of redemption.

*You can participate in the Offering electronically  
by scanning the QR code and filling out the online form.*



## OFFERING

### V. NOW WHEN JESUS WAS BORN

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem,  
in the days of Herod the King.

Behold, there came three wisemen from the East saying,  
“Where is He that is born?  
For we have seen His star in the East.”

## OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the Advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

On the night in which he was betrayed...

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.  
Come to the table.

*Sit.*

## DISTRIBUTION

*At Mountain View Lutheran Church we practice an open communion table, which means that everyone is welcome to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (You don't have to be a member of MVLC.)*

*If you need an alcohol-free element or a gluten-free element, then please let your server know.*

*If you are unable to come forward for communion, then please let an usher know and you will be served where you are seated.*

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ.  
It is made ready for those who are loved by God,  
whether you feel loved or not.

It is for those who desire to grow in love with God.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been here often  
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.

Come, you who have tried to follow  
and you who live with a sense of failure in your following.

Come, not because the Church invites you;  
it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed and loved here.

Please come. Receive the gifts of God for all the people of God.



# COMMUNION HYMN • "HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING"

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 246*



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
2 Wak-ened by the sol-emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, come with par-don down from heav'n.  
4 So, when next he comes in glo-ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son



"Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for-giv'n;  
he will shield us with his mer-cy and with words of love draw near.  
with the ev-er-last-ing Spir-it while un-end-ing a-ges run!



# COMMUNION HYMN • "MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING"

With One Voice 627

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



*Refrain*

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

# COMMUNION HYMN • "FLING WIDE THE DOOR"

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 259*



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

*Stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,

**we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.**

**We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace.**

**We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.**

**Amen.**

## DEACON SENDING

Deacons are called to “make Christ  
and his redemptive love known by word and example.” (1 Timothy)

Such love is expressed in the extension of Holy Communion  
to those who are homebound or hospitalized.

Gracious God,

**as Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son,  
bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with  
our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. In your  
love and care, nourish those to whom we bring this communion,  
that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the  
hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
+ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## IX. ALLELUIA!

*(choir)*

Alleluia!

*(solos)*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is King.

Alleluia! Alleluia! So they sing!

*(choir)*

He is Christ the King. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise His name!

Alleluia! Christ is King! Alleluia! They did sing!

## SENDING

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

# WORSHIP NOTES

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## Songs printed include:

- J “The First Noël.” Text: English traditional. Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer. Public domain.
- J “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding.” Text: Latin hymn; tr. Edward Caswall. Music: William H. Monk. Public domain.
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- J “Fling Wide the Door.” Text: Georg Weissel; tr. Gracia Grindal © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music: J.A. Frelinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
- J Selections from *The Ballad of the Brown King*. Text: Langston Hughes. Music: Margaret Bonds.

## Worship leaders include:

### Both services

- J PRESIDER: Pastor Eric Bostrom.
- J ASSISTING MINISTER: David Cowan.
- J DIRECTOR of MUSIC: Amy Boers.
- J VIDEOGRAPHER: David Burch.
- J ALTAR GUILD: Flora Larson, Karen Lonn, Diane Nelson, Karen Slavens.

### 8:15 a.m.

- J USHERS: Janice Harrison, Skip Harrison (head usher), Eileen Newton, Teagan Thompson.
- J GREETER: Fred Albert.
- J ACOLYTES: Gretchen Schaefer, Nate Schaefer.
- J ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS: Michelle Schweikl, Diane Tyler.
- J LECTOR: Chris Schaefer.
- J COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Fred Albert, Meleney Albert.

### 10:45 a.m.

- J USHERS: Ken Johnson, Terry Johnson, Bob Yost (head usher).
- J GREETER: Mary Beth Dahl.
- J ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS: Craig Murray, Carol Powers, and family.
- J LECTOR: John Dahle.
- J COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Terry Jensen, Bob Linden.
- J SOUND: Megan Hutton.

## MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

3505 - 122nd Avenue East, Edgewood WA 98372  
[www.mtviewlutheran.org](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org) • 253-863-5171

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, December 15, 2024 • 12 noon

**Christmas Caroling to Homebound Members**

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 • 5:30 p.m.

**Soup and Bread Dinner** in the Life Together Hall

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 • 6:30 p.m.

**Advent Midweek Worship** (Holden Evening Prayer) in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 22, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship** in the Sanctuary  
("unified" worship service)

Sunday, December 22, 2024 • 11:00 a.m.

**MVLC Christmas Band/Orchestra Rehearsal** in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 • 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship** in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 29, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.

**First Sunday of Christmas Worship** in the Sanctuary  
("unified" worship service)

Sunday, January 5, 2025 • 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**Second Sunday of Christmas Worship** in the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 26, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.

**Parenting Class Kickoff** in the Library

Sunday, January 26, 2025 • 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Blood Drive at the Bloodmobile** in the MVLC Parking Lot

Sunday, January 26, 2025 • 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

**Potluck and Games** in the Life Together Hall



# Christmas Eve

## CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICES

*Tuesday, December 24, 2024 • 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.*

Join us as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with Christmas carols, sermon, prayers, Holy Communion, and candlelight “Silent Night.”

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