

Atonement Lutheran Church

Let Your Light Shine

January 4, 2026

2nd Sunday of Christmas

9242 Kiefer Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95826

Office Phone: 916-363-8642

Web Page: AtonementLutheranChurch.org

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister.....	Pastor Bill Wong
Assisting Minister.....	Lucy Taylor
Reader.....	Julie Backman
Choir Director	Roy Domoe
Pianist.....	Youlee Duray
Altar Guild/Counters.....	Barb Wildrick and Mary Wudel

Remote Worship Access

Use this link to join the service on a computer, tablet, or smart phone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84490589512> . You may have to wait for the host to admit you to the service.

To call in for sound only, the telephone number is (669) 900 6833. When you are prompted to enter a Meeting ID, the number is 844 9058 9512. If you are asked for a passcode (you may not be), it is 750450.

Those worshiping remotely are invited to share in communion. Please have a small portion of bread and wine/juice ready before the service.

If you have a prayer request, please enter it in the “chat” feature and we will include it during today’s Prayers of the People.

Welcome!

**Whether you are worshipping in-person or remotely,
we're glad you have joined us.**

Atonement is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and is also a Reconciled in Christ (RIC) congregation. This means that we are an inclusive congregation that welcomes and encourages all people, regardless of race, language, previous denominational affiliation, gender identity, or sexual orientation to worship with us so that we may enjoy all the spiritual gifts that God gives to all God's people.

At Atonement, we embrace the Richard Feynman quote that has been so popular on social media: "*I would rather have questions that can't be answered than. answers that can't be questioned.*" Questions are welcome here, even the questions we can't answer, even if you're questioning your faith (don't we all sometime?). Whatever your questions, we would love to walk with you so we can learn from each other.

This bulletin contains all the music and responses you will need for today's service. If you are not familiar with the liturgical form of worship, please let the spirit of the service carry you along.

- Congregational responses are in **bold face type**.
- At various times during the service, you will be invited to **stand**. Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer to worship in this way.

We will celebrate **Holy Communion** this evening. You do not need to be a member, or even a Lutheran, to participate. Everyone is welcome at God's table. If this meal is meaningful to you, please come. If you are not able to come forward, we will bring communion to you. We offer wine or juice and have Gluten Free Wafers. Please let an usher know.

The “**ALC Guest**” wifi password is ALC9242! As a courtesy to others, please put your devices on “silent” before worship begins.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Youlee Duray

Confession and Forgiveness(*stand*)

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \ddagger one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

We yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.

Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. \ddagger Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

Gathering Song All My Heart again Rejoices (Pg. 21)

Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, the love of God our Creator, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise (Please stand in body or spirit) Glory to God

Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Glory to God continued

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The lyrics are in a mix of common and metric time. The first two staves are in common time, the third and fourth are in metric time (three measures), the fifth is in common time, and the sixth is in metric time (three measures). The lyrics are as follows:

C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.

I For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
II you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir- it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther, A - men.

C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Greeting/Prayer of the Day

From the one who was, who is, and who is to come: Grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray; Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, sermon, and song.

Welcoming God's Word

*The children (and those young at heart)
are invited to come forward and help the Pastor welcome God's Word.*



First Reading **Jeremiah 31:7-14**

⁷ Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.” ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.” ¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 147:12-20

*We chant the Psalm responsively. The Assisting Minister begins
and we respond with the **Bold Face** Verses.*



¹² Worship the Lord, ¹ O Jerusalem;
 praise your ¹ God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars ¹ of your gates**
 and has blessed your chil- ¹ dren within you.

¹⁴ God has established peace ¹ on your borders
 and satisfies you with the ¹ finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command ¹ to the earth,**
 a word that runs ¹ very swiftly. R

¹⁶ God gives ¹ snow like wool,
 scattering ¹ frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters ¹ hail like bread crumbs.**
 Who can stand a- ¹ gainst God's cold?

¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the ¹ word and melts them;
 the wind blows, and the ¹ waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the ¹ word to Jacob,**
 statutes and judg- ¹ ments to Israel.

²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any ¹ other nation;
 they do not know God's judgments. ¹ Hallelujah!

Second Reading.....Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Verse (*Please stand in body or spirit.*) Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

First Gospel Reading John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Today's Message **Pr. Bill Wong**

Song of the Day (*Please stand in body or spirit.*)

..... I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Pg. 22)

The Apostles' Creed

Please remain standing as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, eternal, almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, the Only Begotten One; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, lived and loved among us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; who descended into hell, and on the third day rose from the dead; Jesus, Our Savior, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the loving God, and will come again 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 life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People (be seated)

*Each petition will end: Hear us, Oh God,
Please respond: Your mercy is great.*

Greetings of Peace

The passing of the peace was already part of worship in the early church. During the peace, we act on our belief that we are reconciled to one another through our faith in Christ. We greet one another with a handshake or a bow with palms pressed together. As we are still in a time of concern regarding Cold and Flu viruses, please be sensitive to the other person's desired level of physical contact.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Gathering of the Offering (be seated)

Offering SongThe First Noel (Pg. 23)

Offering Prayer (*Please stand in body or spirit*)

Let us pray together

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

We Gather at God's Table

May God be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to
our God most High.

And also with you.
We lift them up to God.
It is right to give our
thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy.....Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

G 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful God, heaven and earth are filled with your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

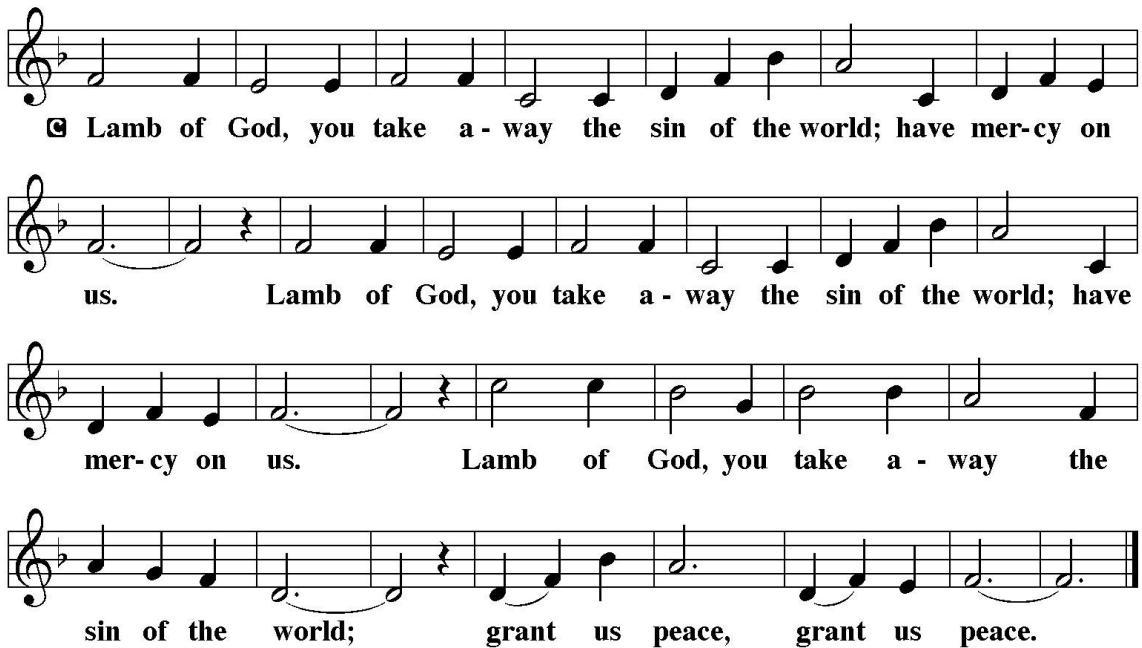
Please feel free to offer this prayer in whatever language or translation speaks most deeply to your heart.

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.

Invitation to Communion

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal. All are welcome.

Lamb of God



C 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.

Communion Blessing *(after all have been served)*

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

The body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ + , strengthen and keep you, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

Sending Song Let All Together Praise Our God (Pg. 24)

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude **Youlee Duray**

Acknowledgements

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December Offerings

	Offerings	Missions, Usage, Flowers, Special, Other	Total Income
December 7	1088.30	2355.00	3443.30
December 14	2555.00	4160.00	6715.00
December 21	587.00		587.00
December 24	4165.00		4165.00
December 28	2487.00		2487.00
Total	10882.30	6515.00	17397.30

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Our Prayer Concerns (Please ask the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayers through the Prayer Chain or the pastor to publish their name and their request.)

Michael Erie (Sharon William's friend) Adam and Family (Dee Emmert's foster son), Dee Emmert's mother, Miguel (Sarah's friend) Ruth and Chris DeCant (Sarah's sister and brother-in-law) Julie Kowing (Sarah's friend) Rick Koch (Jody's son) Jeff Temple and his husband Alonso (Former Members), Eric Adversalo, Sr. and family (Mari Woodard's Son- Lucy's friend). Norma Stein (Barb's friend), The Guidi Family (Youlee Duray's Neighbor), Jennifer Smith (Johanne Smith's Daughter-in-Law), Bodil Drucker, Abby Ewbank (Carson's Goddaughter), Mark Montgomery, Joan Witt (Lucy's Friend), Faith (Lucy's Friend), Bob Grosse (Kathy Chance's father), Gloria (Mary Wudel's sister-in-law) Bob (Mary Wudel's brother), Christopher Chance (Kathy's son), Nina Haskett (friend of Barb), Beverly Olson, Sedona (Lucy's friend), Lauri Snyder, Curt Hanson, Carolyn Hanley, Ron Geirhan, Jody Koch, Lisa Berumen, Mary Lechner, Lonee Martinez, Dennis Tagawa (Barb's friend), Dan and Kathy, Judi Phelps, John Studybaker. All countries experiencing conflict, the many places recovering from natural disasters, all those caught up in the epidemic of violence in the US. Our local congregations and synod staff, especially Davis Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Bishop Jeff Johnson.

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This Week at Atonement

Sunday, January 4

10:00 Worship

11:15 Fellowship

Noisy Offering

Birthday Sunday

Potluck

Thursday, January 8

7:00-8:30pm Choir Practice

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 11

10:00 Worship

11:15 Fellowship

11:30 Council meeting

Tuesday, January 13

1:00 Handcrafters

No Food basket this month.

Bits N Pieces of Information

Potluck Sunday, January 4th: We are excited to announce a welcome potluck today, in honor of Interim Pastor Bill joining Atonement Lutheran Church. Atonement is eager to have Pr. Bill's spiritual guidance as well as his organizational consultant skills for the following: Pastoral Call Committee, New member class, teaching a Eucharist assistant class to help with Home Bound member visitation, and expertise in Lutheran Church organizational activities. Atonement Lutheran Church members and visitors look forward to embracing him with open arms.

Adult Discussion Time: Our discussion group on Manna and Mercy continues January 18. This wonderful graphic novel is by Dan Erlander. In the introduction, he writes "I am convinced that authentic God-Talk can take place only in the context of trembling, laughing at oneself, praying for forgiveness, and understanding that words never capture the reality to which they point."

Atonement Church History Booklet: This winter, work will move forward on putting together an engaging, photo-rich booklet documenting the Atonement Church history. Basic information has been gathered but what is missing are your photos of confirmations, weddings, and church anniversary gatherings. Please share them with Carson, the History Book Coordinator. He can scan them and return the originals to you promptly. Email: Canderson@yahoo.com. Mobile Phone: (916) 882-8792.

Food Basket: The Sacramento food bank will not be coming to our location in January.

2026 Congregation Council

President	Shirl Fischer
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Linda Cancio
Treasurer	Johanne Smith
Financial Secretary	Sarah Klapheck
Property & Administration	Michael Borgg
Worship	Lucy Taylor
Cares/Outreach	Julie Backman
Member at Large	Vacant
Interim Pastor	Pr. Bill Wong

Gathering Song All My Heart again Rejoices (ELW 273)

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
 2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
 3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
 4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in

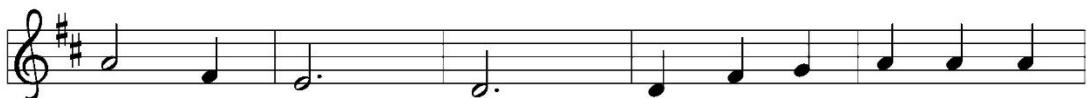
near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
 us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
 small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
 death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -

sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
 grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
 yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
 ter - nal I shall be end-less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Song of the Day..... I Want to Walk as the Child of the Light (ELW 815)



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Offering Song The First Noel (ELW 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.

Sending Song..... Let All Together Praise Our God (ELW 287)

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
 3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a

high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your

sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
 you take our flesh and blood,
 and in return give us to share
 the shining realm of God,
 the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
 that leads to paradise;
 the angel bars the way no more.
 To God let praises rise,
 to God let praises rise!