

4 P.M. SERVICE



# The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

(831) 708-2278 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos CA 95003  
[www.st-john-aptos.org](http://www.st-john-aptos.org)



The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2022

# Welcome to St. John's!

- **Face Masks are required indoors for worship.** (The music director does not wear a mask, but tests for COVID before every service. The clergy also test before services.) Masks are optional for outdoor worship and indoor small group meetings, but encouraged when in close proximity with others.
- **Restrooms** are located on both ends of the building.

## Announcements

### Upcoming Events & Services

- Sat., Dec. 24, 10 p.m. Midnight Mass with music
- Sun., Dec. 25, 10:45 Organ Prelude - 11 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols w/Communion
- Sun., Dec. 25, 12:30 p.m. Christmas Lunch Potluck
- Mon., Dec. 26 - Fri., Dec. 30 - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- Sun., Jan. 1, ONE SERVICE at 10:30 (no 8:00), Feast of the Holy Name
- Sun., Jan. 15 - Mikkelsen Preaching Scholarship Recipient Preaches (Both Services)
- Sun., Jan. 15, 11:45 a.m. - Parish-wide meeting with consultant Linda Buskirk to discuss results of "Lift Every Voice" survey regarding future campus development
- Fri., Jan. 20 - Sun., Jan. 22 - Vestry Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista
- Sun., Feb. 5, 2023 Annual Parish Meeting, Part 2: Election of Delegates to Diocesan Convention

**Clergy On-Call Line: 831-531-7187**

(answered 24/7)

**For prayer requests, email [prayer@st-john-aptos.org](mailto:prayer@st-john-aptos.org)**

(routes to a group of 40+ parishioners who will pray for your request immediately upon receipt of the message.)

Music from The Hymnal 1982 & its authorized supplements are reprinted with permission through Rite Song, a one-time reprint license for congregational use. All other music reprinted with permission through ONE LICENSE, License #A-7 19377.

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

## † The Liturgy of the Word †

### Opening Hymn: Joy to the World

*Hymnal 1982 #100*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*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 - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
3 far as the curse is found, far  
4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven 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.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

## Opening Acclamation

EW 1

*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* You come to your people and set them free.

## The Collect for Purity

*Presider* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Gloria

*The St. James Christmas Service*

*Sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High."*

Glo - ry be to God on high,  
 Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare  
 Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,

To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds  
 Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,  
 Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er

draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.  
 hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.  
 and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.



## Collect of the Day

RCL

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Let us pray. (Silence.)

O Holy One, heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. Through the telling of the Christmas story, let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal in that same child, that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

*New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

The people who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
 on them light has shined.  
 You have multiplied the nation,  
 you have increased its joy;  
 they rejoice before you as with  
 joy at the harvest,  
 as people exult when dividing plunder.  
 For the yoke of their burden,  
 and the bar across their shoulders,  
 the rod of their oppressor,  
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
 For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
 and all the garments rolled in blood  
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders;  
 and he is named Wonderful Counselor,  
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
 Prince of Peace.  
 His authority shall grow continually,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time onward and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing before continuing.

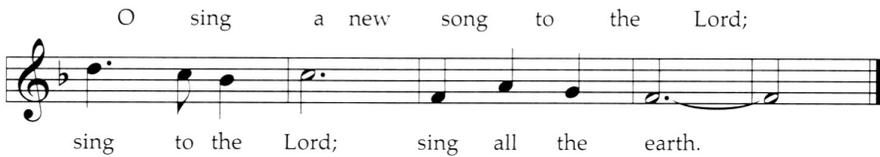
# Psalm 96

Glory to God #639

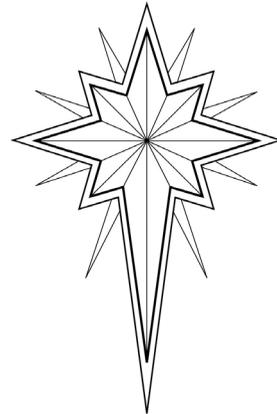
The congregation sings the refrain; the cantor sings the verses.



## Refrain:



- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Sing to God and praise God's name.
- 2 Proclaim God's salvation day by day;  
tell of God's glory among the nations.  
And God's marvels to all the people. *Refrain*
- 3 The Lord is great and worthy of all praise,  
to be feared more than all gods;  
all other gods are merely idols.
- 4 For the Lord made the heavens!  
O the splendor and majesty of God's presence!  
O the power and beauty of God's temple. *Refrain*
- 5 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all its creatures;  
be glad, you fields, and all your fruit.
- 6 Shout for joy, all trees of the woods,  
at the presence of God, who now comes,  
who comes to judge the earth with right and the people with truth. *Refrain*



## Instant Christmas Pageant

Group Publishing, Inc.

### The Christmas Story: Luke 2:1-20

*New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. **JOSEPH** also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with **MARY**, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a **CHILD**. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her **CHILD**. And she gave birth to her firstborn

son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were **SHEPHERDS** living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an **ANGEL** of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the **ANGEL** said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the **CITY** of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a **CHILD** wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the **ANGELS** had left them and gone into heaven, the **SHEPHERDS** said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found **MARY** and **JOSEPH**, and the **CHILD** lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this **CHILD**; and all who heard it were amazed at what the **SHEPHERDS** told them. But **MARY** treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The **SHEPHERDS** returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### Closing Prayer

Dear God in heaven, you richly blessed with the most precious gift of your son Jesus Christ. We do truly cherish and treasure our Bibles from which so many generations have learned and loved this wonderful story. Thank you that today, in this place, we’ve all had the honor and privilege of reliving this most blessed event one more time. We ask that each of us will carry in our hearts a piece of this Christmas story and that you give us the strength and courage to share its meaning with others through the coming holidays and the coming year. In Jesus’ name, **Amen.**



## Prayers of the People for Christmas

*Feasting on the Word Advent Companion*

- Deacon:* Let us pray for the world in which the Prince of Peace took flesh and form, saying, “Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.”
- Intercessor:* We give you thanks, Holy One, for the light that has come into the darkness of our world, for the truth illuminated, for the pathway that has opened, for the rejoicing of your people.
- People:* **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**
- Intercessor:* We give you thanks for the feet of those who bring good news, friendship, comfort, food, shelter, and medicine for healing.
- People:* **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**
- Intercessor:* We give you thanks for the church of Christ Jesus and for all people of faith whose attention to the way of peace tears down walls that keep us apart.
- People:* **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**
- Intercessor:* We give you thanks for this country and for every nation where wisdom reigns, where leaders work for the well-being of the poor, so that no one is hungry or homeless, and every child is valued and nourished.
- People:* **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**
- Intercessor:* We pray for the knowledge and courage to be good stewards of all that you have given us: ourselves, our neighbors, the strangers among us, the oceans and rivers, the air and soil, creatures large and small, that we may continue to be blessed with health and life.
- People:* **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**
- Intercessor:* We pray for those whose flesh is harmed by poverty, sickness, and cruelty of any kind, that the Word-made-flesh may so fill your world with the power to heal that all people would be made strong and whole.
- People:* **Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**
- Presider:* We commend all these things to you and offer our thanksgiving, trusting that what we have left unsaid, your holy wisdom can unearth; in the name of the One who came among us in the power of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## Confession of Sin

*Church of England*

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence, to allow time for individuals to silently confess specific sins to God.

*All* Eternal God, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, and in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

## Absolution

*EOW 1*

*Presider* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## The Peace

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

Because the sharing of the peace symbolizes being reconciled with one another before receiving communion, it is particularly appropriate to seek out anyone with whom you may have had a conflict recently and offer a sign of peace at this time.

## Welcome to Visitors

# † The Holy Communion †

## The Offertory

During the offertory portion of the service, we offer our gifts to God. At St. John's, that takes the form of both financial gifts and gifts of our time. Time donated is documented on a form and put in the offering plate along with financial offerings. If you're participating online, you can find links to donate on the Virtual Worship page of our website: [www.st-john-aptos.org/virtual-worship.html](http://www.st-john-aptos.org/virtual-worship.html)



# Offertory Hymn: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Hymnal 1982 #105



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
 2 From God our heaven - 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 Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:  
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power 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 power and might."  
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

*Refrain*



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

# Presentation Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymnal 1982 #112 vs 4

4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

The image shows a musical score for a hymn, consisting of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise\_ man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him— give my heart." The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. Dashed lines in the piano part indicate arpeggiated chords.

### Eucharistic Prayer 3

EOW #3

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Presider* All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

# Sanctus

arr. Andrew Carter

Sung to the tune of “Angels from the Realms of Glory.”

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lo - rd God of Pow - er God of might  
Hea'v'n and earth are fu - ll of your Glo - - - ry  
Ho - sa - na Ho - sa - na, Ho sa - na in the High - est  
Blessed is he who com - es in the name of the, of the Lord  
Ho - sa - na Ho - sa - na, Ho sa - na in the High - est

*Presider* Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:



*All*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

*Presider* Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*All:*

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*BCP 364*

*Presider* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*All*

**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 for ever. Amen.**

# The Fraction Anthem

St. James Christmas Service

Sung to the tune of "What Child is This"

As the Presider breaks the consecrated Bread, we sing,

**Gently [In One]**

O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly  
Child, who takes the sin of the world a - way; Have  
mer - cy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the  
son of Ma - ry. This, this is your bo - dy  
giv'n, Your pre - cious blood, the gift of heav'n.  
Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the  
son of Ma - ry.

## Invitation to Communion

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Receiving communion is an act of renewing one's commitment to Christ and receiving grace to continue to follow him. Please join us in the circle, even if you choose not to receive communion, which you can indicate by crossing your arms over your chest as the servers come by. If you choose not to receive, the priest will say a blessing over you instead.

## Distribution of Communion

The bread is distributed first. Please hold out your hands to indicate your desire to receive; the priest will place the bread in your hand. Gluten-free wafers are available if needed; they are in a separate gold container on the paten (plate) with the bread.

The wine will be served in the common cup (chalice) and from a flagon (pitcher) that is not shared with others. To receive from the non-shared flagon, you must have brought a cup from home; hold out that cup as the servers come around so they can see that you would like to receive from the flagon instead of the chalice. If you would like to abstain from the wine entirely, cross your arms over your chest when the wine comes by.

### For Online Participants: Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Those not physically present to receive communion can say this prayer while communion is being distributed: "In union, O Lord, with the faithful of St. John's, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen."

If you live in Santa Cruz County and would like someone to bring you communion at home, please contact the church office at 831-708-2278 or email LEVs@st-john-aptos.org.

### Communion Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*Hymnal 1982 #56*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

### Communion Hymn: What Child is This

*Hymnal 1982 #115*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

## Post-Communion Hymn: Silent Night

*Hymnal 1982 #111*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

### Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

*All* Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
 you have graciously accepted us as living members  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
 Send us now into the world in peace,  
 and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you  
 with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.** May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.** May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.** And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

# Final Hymn: Go Tell it On the Mountain

Hymnal 1982 #99

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their  
2 The shep - herds feared and  
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

*Repeat Refrain*

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

