



*Welcome to  
Worship at  
Zion Lutheran Church*

*Sunday, December 31, 2023  
9:00 am*

Photo by Jeff Galle

A low-angle photograph looking up at a pine tree. The branches and needles are heavily coated in a thick layer of white snow or frost, creating a dense, textured appearance. The background is a clear, vibrant blue sky. The text "Welcome and Announcements" is overlaid in the upper right corner in a white, italicized serif font.

*Welcome and  
Announcements*



There will be  
no worship service  
and no classes  
on Wednesday, January 3.

The regular Wednesday schedule  
resumes on January 10.



A low-angle photograph looking up at a pine tree. The branches are thick and dark brown, heavily coated with a thick layer of white snow. The pine needles are also covered in snow, creating a soft, white texture. The background is a solid, clear blue sky. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

*Sharing of  
the Peace*

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanza, alt. Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain.

**Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'ry where;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**



**1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.**



**Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'ry where;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**



**2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.**



**Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'ry where;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**



**3.           Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
              and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.**



**Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'ry where;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**



# *Confession and Forgiveness*

- L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.  
Trusting the goodness and loving kindness  
of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.
- C: **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**L:** God of life,

**C:** you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

A background image of a misty forest with tall evergreen trees and a body of water in the foreground. The scene is hazy and atmospheric.

L: Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of  
God's promises through the outpouring  
of the Holy Spirit.

In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**C: Amen.**



## *Greeting*

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

**C: And also with you.**

# *Kyrie*

p. 165

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the church of God,  
and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# Hymn of Praise

p. 167

*Refrain*



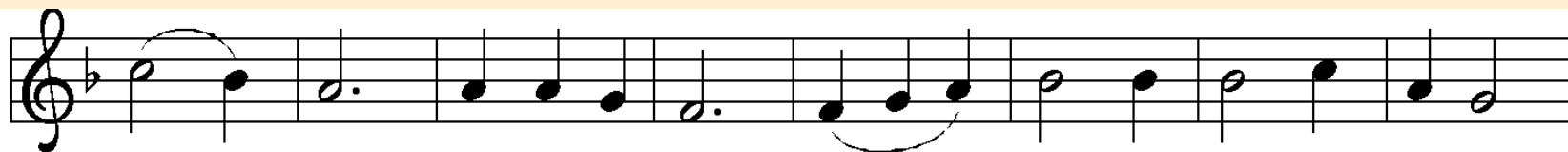
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



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



1 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.



*Refrain*  
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth.

*Final refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant green field in the foreground, dotted with small white flowers. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a vast blue sky filled with scattered white clouds. A bright sun is positioned on the right side of the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the scene.

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## *Prayer of the Day*

L: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## **First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

<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.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the  
LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.



L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 148

L: <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah Praise the LORD from the  
heavens; praise God in the heights.

C: <sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

L: <sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

C: <sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

L: <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

C: <sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

L: <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

C: <sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

L: <sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

C: <sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**

L: <sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

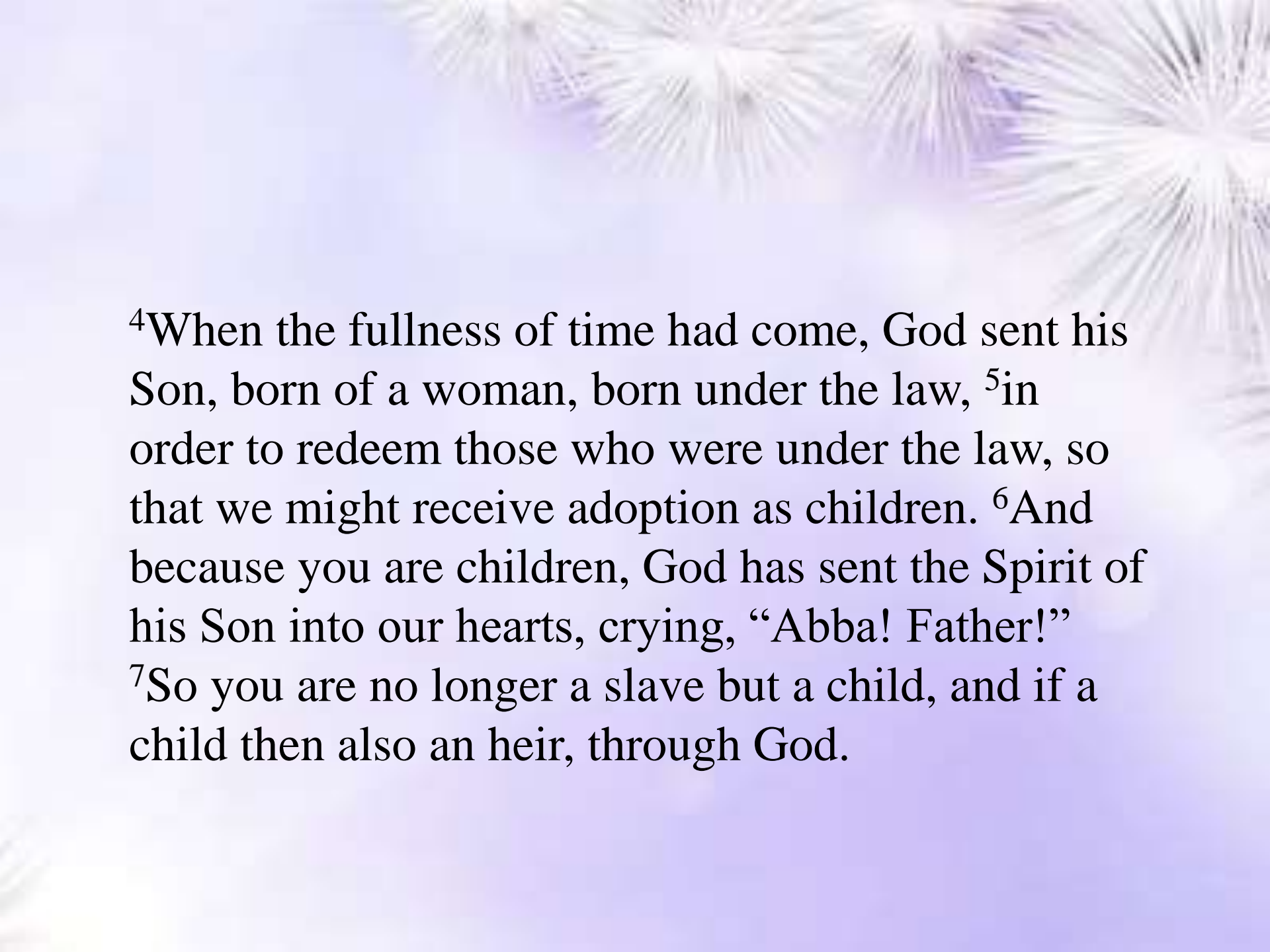
C: <sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

L: <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is  
over earth and heaven.

C: <sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the  
people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near  
the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## **Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7**

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*



<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

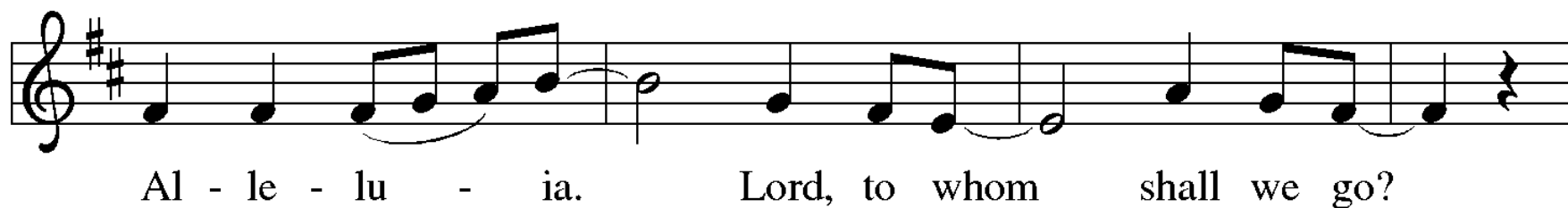



L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# *Gospel Acclamation*

p. 171





L: The Holy Gospel  
according to St. Luke  
the second chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your  
servant in peace, according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence  
of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were  
amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then  
Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,  
“This child is destined for the falling and the rising  
of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be  
opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will  
be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own  
soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.



L: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

# *Message*

“All Are Welcome”

Kamarra Brunelle



# Angels We Have Heard On High

ELW #289

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864. Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958. Public Domain.

- 1. Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**



**2.               Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**



**3.                   Come to Bethlehem and see  
                  him whose birth the angels sing;  
                  come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
                  Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
                  Gloria in excelsis Deo.**



## *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.**

# *Offering*



# **Praise and Thanksgiving**

ELW #689 vv. 1, 2

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- 1. Praise and thanksgiving,  
God, we would offer  
for all things living,  
you have made good:  
harvest of sown fields,  
fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields,  
blossom and wood.**

**2.**

**God, bless the labor  
we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbor  
we may be fed.**

**Sowing or tilling,  
we would work with you,  
harvesting, milling  
for daily bread.**

## *Offering Prayer*

L: God of abundance,  
receive and bless these gifts we have  
offered. Join our hearts with the song of  
the angels, and gather us at your table of  
celebration. Strengthen us to share with  
all the world the abundance of your grace  
upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ,  
the Word made flesh.

C: **Amen.**

## *Prayers of Intercession*

Response after each petition:

L: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Abide with us, O God of mercy,  
and receive our prayers according to your  
abundant grace.

**C: Amen.**

## ***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.**

**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.**

## *Blessing*

L: God bless you and keep you,  
✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your  
hearts, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

# On Eagle's Wings

ELW #787

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1951. Music: Michael Joncas, b. 1951. © 1979 New Dawn Music.  
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1. **You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
my rock in whom I trust!"**



**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**



**2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear:  
under God's wings your refuge,  
with faithfulness your shield.**



**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**



3. You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come.



**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**



4. For to the angels God's given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.



And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you,  
hold you in the palm of his hand.

## *Dismissal*

L: Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**



*Thank you  
for worshipping  
with us!*

*God bless you!*

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