

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

December 31, 2017
10 AM – Service of Carols
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org



LESSONS & CAROLS

December 31, 2017

On this Sunday after Christmas the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

Singing Bowl

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE . . . *Michael Keating and Leilani Camara*

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Rejoice with the heavens: Christ is born!

All: God's light has come to earth.

P: Sing of this miracle: God's salvation is for all.

All: We sing with all the earth!

HYMN . . . “Once in Royal David’s City” vs.1, 2



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;

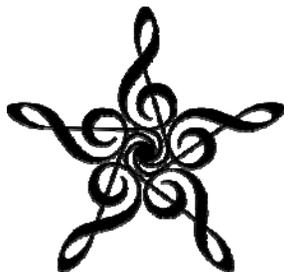


Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho-ly.

INVOCATION

P: With hearts open wide and thanksgivings carried like a king’s gift, we journey to the stable. Amazing God, tender child, we offer you our words, brimming with joy. We offer our hands, ready to lift those who have fallen, and ready to preserve and create beauty. We offer our hearts, persistent in loving and faithful in caring.

All: Amazing God, tender child, we thank you for the reason to sing carols and gather friends and family together. Thank you for this season of star and song. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace.

All: **Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Be Seated

READING I

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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. 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.

HYMN . . . “Prepare the Royal Highway” vs. 1, 4
Green Book #26



READING II

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

HYMN . . . “*Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming*” vs. 1, 2
Green Book #58



READING III

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

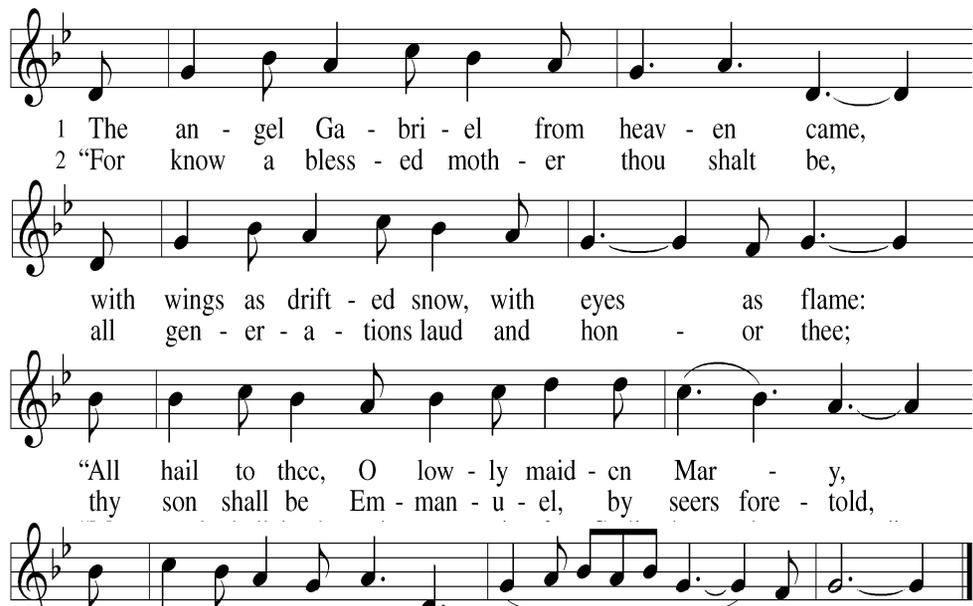
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



HYMN . . . “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

vs. 1, 2



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!



READING IV

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1, 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC . . . “Hodie, Christus Natus Est” – Kathleen & Michael Keating



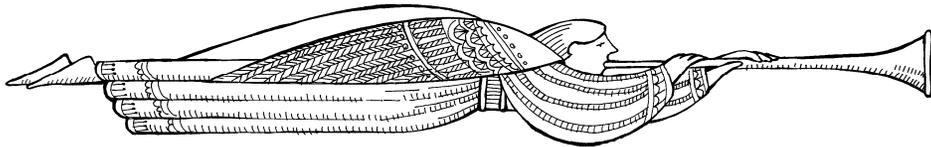
READING V

Shepherds go to the manger

Luke 2:8-20

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.

HYMN . . . "Angels from the Realms of Glory" vs. 1, 2
Green Book #50



READING VI

The Magi are led by a star to Jesus

Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



HYMN . . . "We Three Kings" vs. 1, 5



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Please Stand

GOSPEL READING

Dedication of Jesus in the Temple

P: *The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.*

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2:22–40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord,

"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons." 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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed . . . and a sword will pierce your own soul too." 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, 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. 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. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN . . . "O Lord, now let Your Servants" vs. 1, 2 Green
Book # 339



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the Gen - tiles un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: When the time had come, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, dedicated him to God, and offered gifts to God in thanksgiving and praise.

All: **In honor of that ancient tradition, we come to this time of offering, dedicating ourselves to God and offering our own gifts of thanksgiving and praises.**

THANKFUL OFFERING . . . "Good King Wenceslas" –
Kathleen & Michael Keating

Please Stand

OFFERTORY . . . "In the Bleak Midwinter" vs. 3
Cranberry Book # 294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger.

All: **You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.**

L: You come again in bread and wine.

All: **Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.**

L: And then, through these gifts,

All: **help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Drawn near to God as children and heirs of Christ's promise, we pray for all people of God, for our nation and our world, and for those in need. For the faith communities of Fremont, Union City, Newark and for faith communities throughout the world. Help us to see ourselves in our neighbors, especially those who differ from us, and draw us together in common service to those who are hungry, poor, and oppressed. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: For the well-being of the earth as we begin another year entrusted with its care. Give us lively imaginations to see ways to conserve its limited resources, harness its renewable energies, and conform ourselves to its natural goodness. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: For those who wait in the shadow of death, for those who are ill, for those who struggle to see the future, and for all who lack even their basic needs. Transform our love toward them with the vision of eyes that have seen the salvation of God. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: For those who cannot see, for those who cannot hear, for those who have varied use of their limbs, and for those able to exercise all the senses. Help us to appreciate the fullness of God's gift of life in our varied abilities, and to celebrate the diversity that reveals a more complete image of the one who makes us all family. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

L: Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

All: Amen.

A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE . . . tune: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

L: May the good Lord be with you.
Lift your hearts to God in praise.

**All: May the Lord be with you too.
To the Lord our hearts we raise.
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

**All: In the Word of God made flesh -
Great and wondrous mystery -
Now we see with vision fresh
God's abundant majesty.
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, gracious Lord. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, that our eyes of faith may be always open in expectation of the vision of your glory; that once beholding God made visible, we may be drawn to love You, O God, whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name without ceasing . . .

SANCTUS . . . “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

**All: Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

CONSECRATION

P: Holy are you, O God our Father, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. As your Word became flesh, born of a woman, on that night long ago, so on the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you,

broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

All: we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we experience the mystery of our faith.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 forever. Amen.

FRACTION RITE

P: Joy to the world! Our Savior has come.

All: Let every heart receive our Redeemer!

Be Seated

LAMB OF GOD . . . tune: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

**All: My heart to You I offer,
O Christ Child sweet & dear,
Upon your love relying.
Oh, hold me ever near
That we may never part.
For all that You have given -
I offer you my heart.**

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is open to all.
Walking communion will be down the center aisle.
Grape juice is white, wine is red.
If you desire communion brought to you,
please let an usher know.



**TAKE AND EAT
DRINK**

COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Away in a Manger"



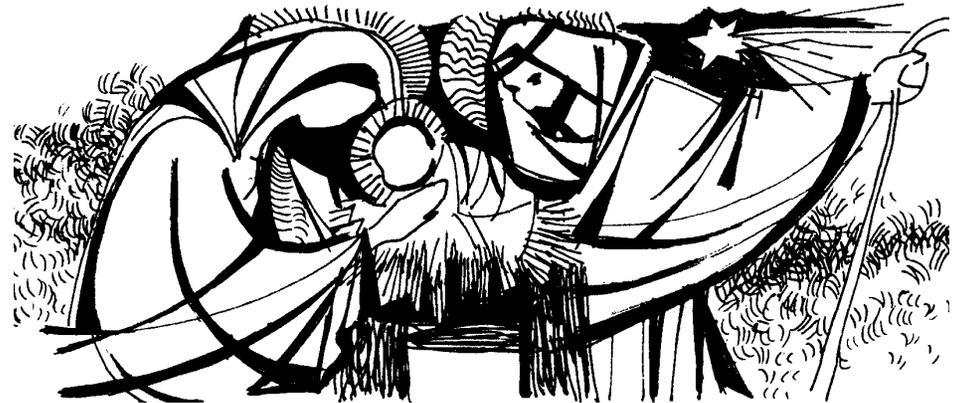
1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.



COMMUNION HYMN . . . “From Heaven Above”



1 From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bring good
 2 To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
 3 This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your
 4 The bless - ing which the Fa - ther planned the Son holds



news to ev - 'ry - one! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
 sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your Sav - ior
 in his in - fant hand, that in his king - dom, bright and



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 be and from all sin will set you free.
 fair, you may with us his glo - ry share.

5 These are the signs which you will see to let you know that it is he:
 in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes
 the child who all the earth upholds.

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
 and set with gold and jewels rare,
 still such a cradle would not do
 to rock a prince so great as you.

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ.

All: As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING . . . tune: “The Bells of Christmas”

**All: Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
 And steadfast love fore'er endure!
 Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,
 And we have tasted of His word.**

**As God's own servants we depart
 With God's salvation in our hearts
 God's saving power is thus made known,
 May love through all the earth be shown.**

Be Seated



**COMMUNITY
 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please Stand

BENEDICTION . . . tune: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

L: May the good Lord bless and keep, Gracious light on you to shine, Look on you with favor deep, Granting you God's peace divine.

**All: Gloria in Excelsis Deo,
 Gloria in Excelsis Deo.**

SENDING SONG . . . “Joy to the World” vs. 1, 2

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
ceive its King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in Christmas peace. Let your light shine.
Serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks, be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ALL ARE INVITED TO HOLLAND HALL FOR BRUNCH

THE PROMISE WORDS © 1995 GIA PUBLICATIONS, INC.
MUSIC © 2003 ARR. © 2014 GIA. PUBLICATIONS, IN CHICAGO, IL.