

**WELCOME**  
**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**TWIN LAKES, WI**  
**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**DECEMBER 25, 2025**



**“UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN”**

**AS WE GATHER**

Months of anticipation for the young children among us reach their long-awaited fulfillment with the exciting arrival of Christmas Day! Take that anticipation, multiply it again and again, and you can begin to fathom how it felt for God’s people, who long awaited the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah and the other prophets had foretold that this Child, this Son, would come to bring salvation unto us. In the birth of Jesus Christ, this anticipation that stretched for hundreds—even thousands—of years reaches its fulfillment as God’s Son is born into our world. Together may we marvel at the mystery that is Christmas, rejoicing with the angels that this Good News is delivered unto us. May we together receive this gift anew as Jesus Himself is present with us as we gather to worship Him!

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC 9:45-10:00**  
**Christmas Songs and Carols: George Kelm**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN**    “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”    *LSB 359*

## INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.*  
*Luke 18:13*

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered this Christmas morning to hear God's Word, to marvel at the mystery of the Word becoming flesh, and to receive Him as He comes to us in His body and blood, let us first consider our unworthiness before God and confess before Him and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition; only God's Son, Jesus Christ, has set us free from our fears and failures, our sin and death, and He enables us to live forever as God's children. Let us then take refuge in the infinite mercy of our God and, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, say: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, born into this world on Christmas, to live, suffer, die, and rise again for you. For Jesus' sake, your heavenly Father forgives you all your sins. As your pastor, it is my privilege to announce this message of grace unto you and, as Christ has commanded, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

**KYRIE**



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** “We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth”

*LSB 382 st. 1*

**We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth;  
Clothed in flesh You came to earth,  
The virgin bears a sinless boy  
And all the angels sing for joy. Alleluia!**

**SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, in ages past, You spoke through the prophets. Today You have spoken to us through Your Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. Tune our ears to Your Word and nourish us with the flesh and blood of Your Son, who is always with us; through the same Jesus Christ, who rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**C** **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Psalms 2*

**P** Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

- C    The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed, saying, “Let us burst Their bonds apart and cast away Their cords from us.”**
- P    He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, “As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.” I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”**
- C    Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled.**
- P    Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.**
- P    This is the Word of the Lord.**
- C    Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM    “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” *Elliot/Matthews***

## **EPISTLE**

*Hebrews 1:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup> And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup> like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE

*John 1:14*

**C Alleluia! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:1-18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Angels We Have Heard on High”  
*LSB 368*

**SERMON** *Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald*

**CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE CHRISTMAS CREED**  
*(Tune: LSB 361)*

**In God the Father we believe,  
The Lord of Hosts His Name.  
All things from Him their form receive;  
By His strong Word they came.  
By Him was all created  
In earth and heav’n above.  
He made them all, things great and small,  
By His great pow’r and love.**

**In God’s Son Jesus we believe,  
Who came at God’s own hour.  
Whom Virgin Mary did conceive,  
By Holy Spirit’s pow’r.  
He suffered and was buried,  
Was raised at God’s own call,  
To reign on high, and to draw nigh,  
At last as Judge of all.**

**In Holy Spirit we believe,  
And in Christ's Church on earth.  
The saints, united, faith receive,  
A gift of precious worth.  
He sanctifies and keeps us,  
By His empow'ring love.  
Forgiven, we from grave set free,  
Shall live with God above.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**    "A Communion Hymn for Christmas"  
*Clarkson/Fettke*

## **OFFERING**

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

## **PREFACE**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**P**    The Lord be with you.  
**C**    **And also with you.**  
**P**    Lift up your hearts.  
**C**    **We lift them to the Lord.**  
**P**    Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C**    **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

**P**            It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for the countless blessings You have given to us and all creation. This day we rejoice with the heavenly host as



they proclaim the glad tidings of great joy, knowing that the Word has become flesh and made His dwelling among us. Your holy Child, who entered our world that first Christmas, comes unto us again this day in His body and blood as we are drawn unto Your holy presence. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**HYMN**                    “Hark! What Mean Those Holy Voices”  
[TLH 83 vv. 1,2,5]

**1 Hark! what mean those holy voices  
Sweetly sounding thro' the skies?  
Lo, th'angelic host rejoices,  
Heav'nly hallelujahs rise.**

**2 Listen to the wondrous story  
Which they chant in hymns of joy,  
Glory in the highest, glory!  
Glory be to God Most High!**

**5 Hasten, mortals, to adore Him,  
Learn His name and taste His joy,  
Till in heaven ye sing before Him,  
"Glory be to God most high!"**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**                    *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**P**                    Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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; and 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.**

## **PAX DOMINI**

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

**C** **Amen.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

*LSB p. 198*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sin of the world,  
grant us Thy peace. A-men.**

## **+DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION+**

***By communing, a person says publicly that they -***

- are baptized and confirmed*
- believe Christ's words*
- repent of their sins*
- fully agree with all that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches.*

***How to receive –***

- anyone may come to the altar but keep hands folded if not receiving Communion*
- the center of the tray has a cup with just a drop of wine for those who must minimize alcohol*
- smile, exude your joy, but keep a reverent demeanor as others commune*

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”**

*LSB 386*

## **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

*[St. 3, LSB 378]*

**All blessing, thanks, and praise to Thee,  
Lord Jesus Christ, be given  
Thou hast my brother deigned to be,  
Thou Lord of earth and heaven.  
Help me throughout this day of grace  
To praise Thy love and seek Thy face;  
And when I stand before Thee  
Forever to adore Thee.**

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**P** Let us pray. In former days, O Lord, You required sacrifices for sin and spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. But in these last days, You have atoned for our sins through the blood of Your Son, through whom You have spoken to us. Lead us to bring good

news of happiness and to publish peace and salvation as we lift up our voices and sing for joy; for You reign, one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forever.

**C           Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

*Isaiah 9:6, adapt.; Numbers 6:24–26*

**P     Unto us**

**C     a child is born!**

**P     Unto us**

**C     a son is given!**

**P     And the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

**C     And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**P     The Lord bless you and keep you.**

**The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.**

**The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.**

**C     Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN     “A Great and Mighty Wonder”     LSB 383**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P     Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C     Thanks be to God.**

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**Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald**  
**Liturgist: Rev. Maurice Lind**  
**Choir Director: Gail Feick**  
**Music Ensembles: Tabra Gomski**  
**Organist: George Kelm**

**OUR ALTAR POINSETTIAS ARE AVAILABLE AFTER TODAY'S  
SERVICE FOR ANY VOLUNTARY DONATION.**



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