

**First Sunday of Christmas  
December 28, 2025  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church**

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Love Has Come*

#292

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

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

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.

Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

<sup>13</sup> And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23**

<sup>13</sup> Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

## **SERMON**

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

Suzanne Bowen

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

#282

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERTORY**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#254

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!*

#288

**THE BLESSING**

**May you remember that good news is louder than fear.**

**SENDING**

Go in peace, and

**be not afraid!**

*He Came Down*

Text: Cameroon traditional; Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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