

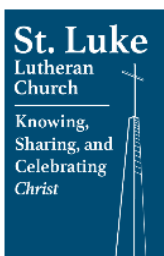
Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2025

Welcome to Worship



In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



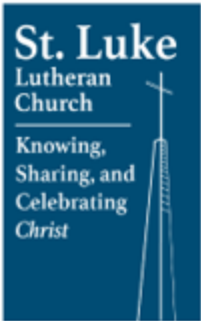
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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please rise in body or spirit.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.



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.

GATHERING SONG O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL ELW 283

GREETING

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

CAROL OF PRAISE HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING ELW 270

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.
Grant that here on earth
we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence
and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.



ISAIAH 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah the 9th chapter.

²People who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks Be to God

PSALM 96:

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from today.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly be praised,
more to be feared all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are your presence;
power and splendor are in your.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD honor due the name;
bring offerings and enter the courts the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all
that therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD, for you come to the earth.**

¹³You will judge the with righteousness
and the peoples your truth, and the peoples with his truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit

Refrain

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

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Luke 2:1-20.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³All went to their own towns to be registered.⁴Joseph 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.⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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."¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ACCLAMATION

GO TELL IT FROM THE MOUNTAIN

ELW 290

Refrain

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

The assembly is seated.

Message

Min. Bobbie Hoffman

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

LOVE HAS COME

ELW 292

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

The assembly is seated.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares (*especially in . . . specific instances of conflict may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERING MUSIC In A Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes soloist, Kathy Billger

Text: Mary Louise Bringle; Music: Sally Ann Morris ©2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

OFFERING SONG IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER VS 3

ELW 294

We present our offering to God during worship as sign of our gratitude for His goodness, mercy & generosity.

**What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
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.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,

through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
With the church on earth and hosts of heaven,
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:





1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

All are welcome to the table. If you will be coming to the altar for communion, please follow the ushers' instructions. Those who are choosing to stay in the pew, using the prefilled cups, and those who need to have the pastor bring the elements to them should wait for instructions from the pastor. Children are most welcome to accompany their parents to the altar for a blessing.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION SONG

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM VS 4

ELW 279

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our lord Immanuel!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in God's grace.

Amen.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Incarnate God, **you are among us at this table.**

**May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.**

**Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.**

Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

*At this time we share the light of Christ among us:
The light that illumines shadows,
The light that guides our steps,
The light that gives us hope,
The light of love.*



CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

SILENT NIGHT


ELW 281



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please rise in body and spirit.

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

SENDING SONG JOY TO THE WORLD ELW 267

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

**St. Luke's staff and council members wish you and your family a very
blessed Christmas season.**