

**“AND HE WENT AND
LIVED IN A CITY CALLED
NAZARETH SO THAT WHAT WAS
SPOKEN BY THE PROPHETS
MIGHT BE FULFILLED.”**

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

First Sunday of Christmas

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church
300 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2931 www.osluth.org
Pastor Randy Schroeder*

*Purdue Lutheran Ministry
330 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2398 www.plm.org*

January 1, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

All are welcome here
All people of faith, All people of doubt
All people of any origin, race, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression
All people who seek a compassionate community

All are welcome here
Welcome to worship, Welcome to pray
Welcome to learn, Welcome to give thanks
Welcome to serve God and neighbors

All are welcome here
All are redeemed by a gracious God



Please read this before worship begins.

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. If you are visiting today, not knowing what to do, know through God you are welcomed and loved. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

I cannot say what Communion is any better than Luther, so I'll let him say it. In the Small Catechism Luther writes the following, and more in The Sacrament of the Altar.

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself.

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

This is shown by the words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." In the Sacrament, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

It is not the eating and drinking that do these things, but these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words are, along with the bodily eating and drinking, the main thing in the Sacrament. Anyone who believes these words has what they say: that is, the forgiveness of sins.

- As we travel this wilderness of COVID-19, it is right and proper for us to participate in the Eucharist as we are gathered as the church in person, as well as live streaming. Holy Communion takes place in the assembly of the Body of Christ.
- Online Communion is new territory for us as we navigate our new context. After reading Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, after much prayer and discernment, I believe this technology should be used in such manners to share God's grace, love, forgiveness and acceptance.
- As we assemble in person or live stream, when confessions are heard and forgiven, as the Word is proclaimed, it is proper for Communion to take place as we are then sent out as the Body of Christ for the world. I ask you to only commune as the live Word is spoken and not commune to the recording of this service.
- Please use bread and wine or a gluten free option and grape juice. Please prepare a plate and cup prior to service to have and share. If you have one and not the other, know that God is fully present in both elements and only one is necessary.
- God is the One working through the spoken Word in the mystery of communion. We don't fully know how, rather we know Jesus said, "Take, eat; this is My body," ... "Take this and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as

you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” God is the source of love infused into us through the Spirit as we partake of the Eucharist. We don’t understand it fully; we fully believe Christ is there fulfilling His promises of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Remember: All Are Welcome – Hospitality fills God’s Table – Everywhere!

The Gathering

Prelude Music

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming, John Ferguson
Once Again My Heart Rejoices, John Ferguson
Angels from the Realms of Glory, Edwin Johnson

Stand

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 148:1, 7, 11-13

P Come, let’s praise our God together!
C **Angels above and sea creatures below,**

P Rulers of earth and street people,
C **young men and women,**

P senior citizens and children—
C **let’s all praise God together!**

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.
C **Amen.**

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C God of life,
**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.**

P 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

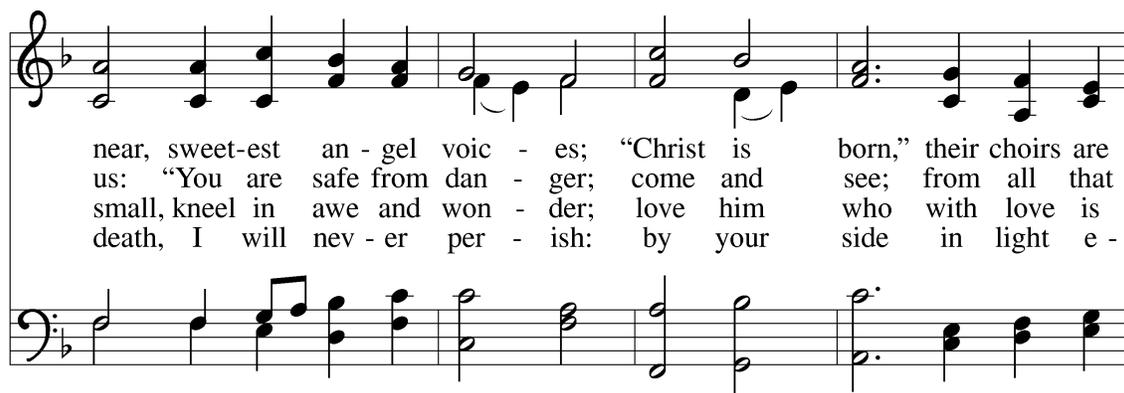
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Hymn of Praise: ELW 273: *All My Heart Again Rejoices*



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: WARUM SOLLT ICH, Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–1676

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Prayer of the Day

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

C **Amen.**

Sit

The Word

L A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 63:7-9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their savior
⁹in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
²Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.
⁴Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.
⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
⁶who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.
⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
⁸fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;
¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
¹²young men and maidens,
old and young together.
¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor
is over earth and heaven.
¹⁴The 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!

L A reading from the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 2:10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

¹⁰It 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. ¹¹For 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, ¹²saying,

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

¹³And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

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

¹⁴Since, 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, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

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

Matthew 2:13-23

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

¹³Now after the wise men 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.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and 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.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, 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 wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“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.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“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.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over 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. ²³There 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 Nazorean.”

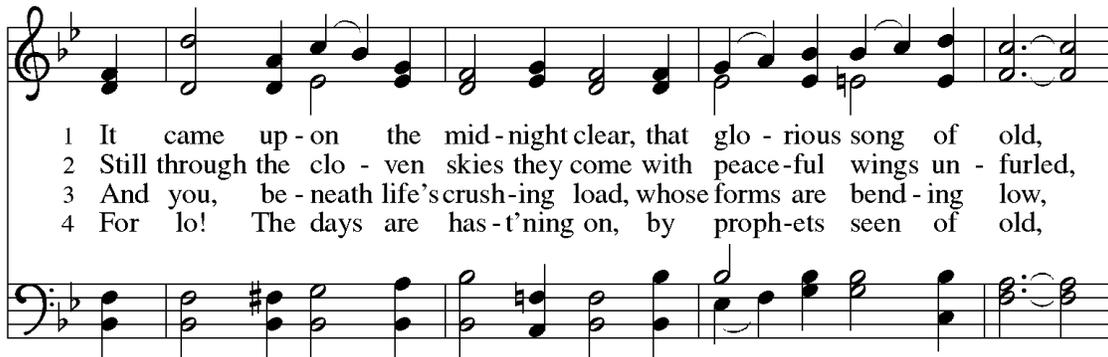
P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

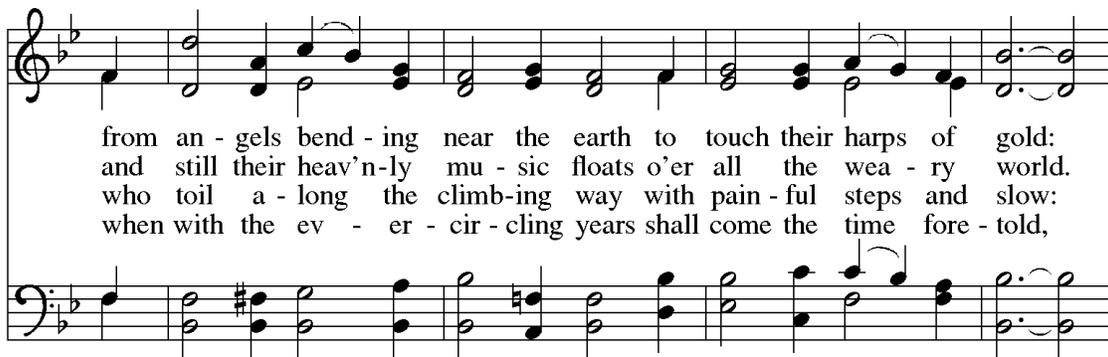
Children's Sermon

Stand

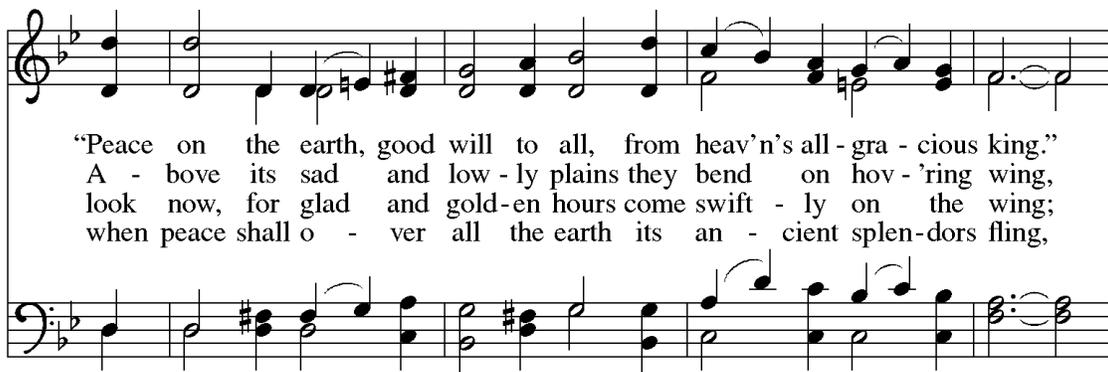
Hymn of the Day: ELW 282: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*



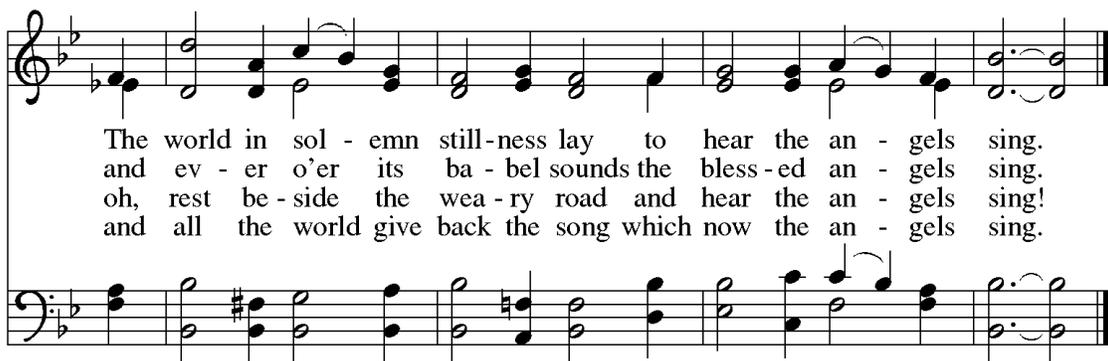
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

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Apostles' Creed

The presiding minister may introduce the Creed.

**C 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

A With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

A Merciful God, broaden the church's hospitality and welcome. Open our hearts to any in need of refuge and help, especially those who are persecuted. Prosper the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Life-giving God, restore the health of the soil, the seas, and the air. Increase the joy and praise of all living things. In the coming year strengthen local, national, and international efforts to prevent further harm to the environment. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Liberating God, deliver your people from cruel oppression. Increase justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom alive. In this new year bring the blessing of peace and put an end to violent conflict throughout the world especially Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey, Israeli, Libya, and Yemen. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need, especially individuals and families living in poverty especially family and friends of Brandon P, Jason, Fil, Shirley & Eric, Rosalie, Jeff, Denise, Janet, Helmut, Carol, Richard & Karli, Victoria, Jennifer, Jeanette, Suzanne, Shelby, Eric M, David O, Gary, Kevin, Nancy, Ann, Mary, Sean, Mayor Dennis, Mary M, Jane, Omarion, John M, Robert M, Sue W, Tom, Jim W, Peter H, and Steve. Protect and nurture all children. Sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year. Increase our love for one another and the neighbors we serve. Enrich our worship and deepen our faith. Sustain our pastors and all who minister in your name. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping. We give you thanks and praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into everlasting life with you.
God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.
C **Amen.**

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Sit

The Meal

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

- Please have your wine and bread ready for the Meal. It would be best to use grape juice or wine and a small portion of bread or gluten free option for the Eucharist.
- Please participate by lifting the bread and the wine as the pastor lifts the bread and wine.
- If everyone in the family is healthy please take the time to commune each other; presenting the bread first and saying, “the Body of Christ given for you” and then the wine/juice saying, “the Blood of Christ shed for you.” If you’re not feeling well, please commune yourself as you are able.
- The elements (bread and juice or wine) should be consumed in their entirety or returned to the earth as once they are consecrated they are the Body and Blood of Christ. Please do not throw Jesus in the trash or down the drain.

As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, please read the following:

For today’s distribution of Holy Communion, after the Invitation to the Table, the presiding pastor will invite the worship assistants (lector, assisting minister, ushers) to commune behind the altar. The presiding pastor will then commune those worshipping via Zoom and those in the sanctuary who wish to commune in their pews. Then the presiding pastor will commune those who wish to come up to the altar while the Lamb of God is played. Thank you for your patience as we acknowledge the awkwardness of experiencing something different in worship. God is with us in this meal. God is also with us as we experiment with new worship practices.

Offering

Please feel free to send your regular tithe in the mail, drop it off to the church office or if you have not checked out our website and the "Your Offering Made Easy" tab, this could be your opportunity. (John Mills is available to answer any questions about the Vanco Online giving option if you wish to contact him. His email address is john_r_mills@icloud.com)



Offering Prayer

A 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.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.**

P 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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

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

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
C **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

Invitation to Communion

P So come to this table, which now extends into our homes, you who have faith and you who would like to have faith; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed; come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

ELW 286: *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*

1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with

come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our

soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
 sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.
 Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

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P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us,
 now and forever
 C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A God our redeemer,
 You have fed us at this table
 With gifts of grace, truth, and life.
 As you have gathered us in joy,
 Send us forth as messengers of your peace.
 Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
 Born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 C Amen.

The Sending

An Invitation

Sending Hymn: ELW 275: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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Benediction

P 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.**

Dismissal

A Christ the Savior is born!
 Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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Worship Assistants Today: Beth Dana (Musician), Clara Gearhart (Assisting Minister), Peter Bunder (Lector), Mark Hermodson (Cantor), Calvin Gearhart (Usher), Mike Williams (A/V & Livestream Specialist) Jesse Grogan (Assistant to Mike Williams)