



Our Saviour
Lutheran Church

Order of Worship
December 24, 2025
CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Handbell Choir – The Little Drummer Boy
Barbara Vainio – Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light
Praise Band
Linda Strohmenger – Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah
Choir – Child of the Poor
Praise Band

WELCOME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GREETING

Pastor: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Congregation: ***O come let us adore him.***

Pastor: May the light and peace of Christ be with you all.

Congregation: ***And also with you.***

SONG – “Noel” – OSLC Praise Band

PRAYER

Pastor: 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.

Congregation: ***Amen.***

PROCESSION – “O, Come All Ye Faithful” – ELW 283 Verses 1-3

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*The highest, most holy light of light eternal
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

THE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

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

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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life.

*Congregation: **Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” – ELW #279

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*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!*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Congregation: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

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 Saviour, 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!"

CAROL – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" – ELW #270

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

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.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

*Congregation: **Thanks be to God!***

CAROL – "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" – ELW #282 v. 1-2

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Frank Waugh

THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC – Il Est Né – OSLC Handbell Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE – “Angels We Have Heard on High”
ELW #289, v. 1

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all creation, through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Receive our offerings, and as you nourished us at your table, may your Word
take flesh in our lives; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CAROL – “What Child Is This” – ELW #296

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

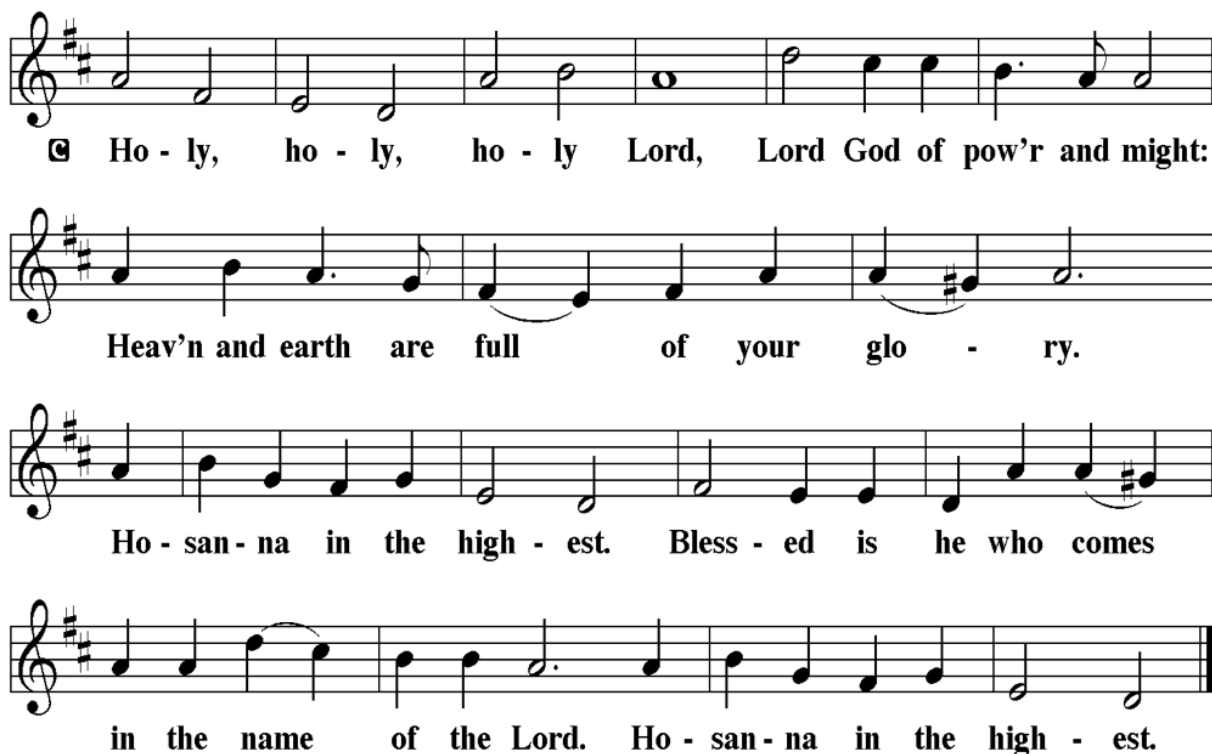
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE 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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***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.***

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad.

HOLY COMMUNION

We believe and teach that the Real Presence of Christ is present in, under and through the bread and wine as means of grace, offering forgiveness of sins and new life to believers in Christ. Baptized followers of Jesus are welcome to partake of the sacrament regardless of denominational affiliation. Small children and unbaptized adults are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. We ask older children and adults seeking the blessing to cross hands to shoulders to indicate a desire for blessing.

COMMUNION SONGS – OSLC Praise Band

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING PREFACE

Pastor: Christ is the Light come into the World. He has come to our world to save the world. As the people called by Christ, we are to take his light and spread it to a world that far too often finds itself washed by darkness. Just as this candle, the Christ Candle, is symbolic of the light of Christ, let your candle so symbolize his light passed to you. As I light my candle from the Christ Candle and pass it to some of you, you too should share the light with those around you. Once everyone has received the light, together we will overcome the darkness.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The sanctuary lights will be dimmed. The ushers will touch the candle at the end of each row and each person will turn on their candle and symbolically pass the light to the candle of the person next to them. All candles will remain lighted until the end of the service.)

MUSIC – “I Wonder As I Wander” – OSLC Handbell Choir

CELEBRATION OF LIGHT:

CAROL – “Silent Night” – ELW #281 *(all sing together)*

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.*

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World.” In the darkness, you do not hide your lamp but raise it up for all to see. So let your light shine that all may know that our hunger for hope has been fulfilled. Joy to the world! The Lord has come! (Candles are raised up.)

CAROL – “Joy to the World” – ELW #267 v. 1-3

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*

(Candles are extinguished as lights come on.)

BENEDICTION

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG – “Go Tell It On The Mountain” – ELW #290 *OSLC Praise Band*

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

*While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace – share the hope! Your Christ has come!

Amen!

POSTLUDE

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Pastor Frank Waugh, Officiating Minister
Linda Strohmenger, Organist
Janis Carey, Lay Reader

Christmas Poinsettias

Name	Dedication
Tom Adams	in honor of granddaughters; Adeline, Anderson and Coble Adams
Richard and Roberto Barnes	to the Glory of God
Bill and Trudy Blake	to the memory of our parents
Evie Brassie	in honor of the second-year confirmands class
Carol Bruno	To the Glory of God and in memory of Joseph Bruno, John, Erma, Ted & Brian Snyder; Henrietta Kaiser; and Dawn Harkins
Jay and Dianne Forsberg	to the Glory of God and in memory of Terinda, Eric & Jason
Jerry & Carole Gaskill	in memory of our parents
Carolyn Gordon	to the Glory of God and in memory of Katheran Klein
Lee Grant	to the Glory of God
Greg & Pat Hayward	in memory of Lucy Hayward; Bob & Ruth Hayward and Margret Arnold
Ed and Alicia Hill	in memory of loved ones in Heaven
Terry and Amy Hill	in honor of Pastor Frank and in honor of Alicia, Ed, Will, Caleb and Henry Hill
Rick and Cinnamon LeBlanc Johnson	in memory of Clarence and Alberta LeBlanc
Karyn Kline	to the Glory of God and in honor of all 2025 new church members
Michael and Tiffanie Lancaster	to the Glory of God

Ann Leib	to the Glory of God and in memory of Charlie Leib
Carol Linthicum	in memory of loved ones
Annemarie Loeser	in memory of John Loeser
Caryl Moak	to the Glory of God
Mark and Jen Murphy	in memory of our cherished family and friends
Gretchen Nelms	in memory of loved ones
Julian and Robin Peters	in memory of James and Ruth Peters and Hilton Marais
Johnny and Melinda Ransdell	in memory of SR & Lillian Ransdell and Dick & Peggy Smith
Susie Stanislawek	in memory of Len Stanislawek
Linda Strohmenger	in memory of John Strohmenger, Jon Michael Strohmenger and Ryder Knechtle
Barbara Vainio	in honor of Our Saviour volunteers
Larry and Bunny Wilson	in memory of Martha and Jim Wilson and Frances and Paul Price
Gay Wittenstrom	in memory of Keith Wittenstrom
Richard and Sandra Zimmer	to the Glory of God
Steve and Libby Carter	in celebration of all the children of Christmas

Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias that adorn the sanctuary and to those who donated to the Food Bank of the Sandhills.

Donations to the Food Bank will be used to assist those affected by hunger in the Sandhills, and will serve four counties: Lee, Moore, Richmond and Scotland. The mission of the Food Bank is to nourish people, build solutions to reduce poverty and empower our communities to address hunger at its roots through outreach, advocacy and organizing for long-term change. Their vision is a future where no one goes hungry.

All Are Welcome!
Our Saviour Lutheran Church



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