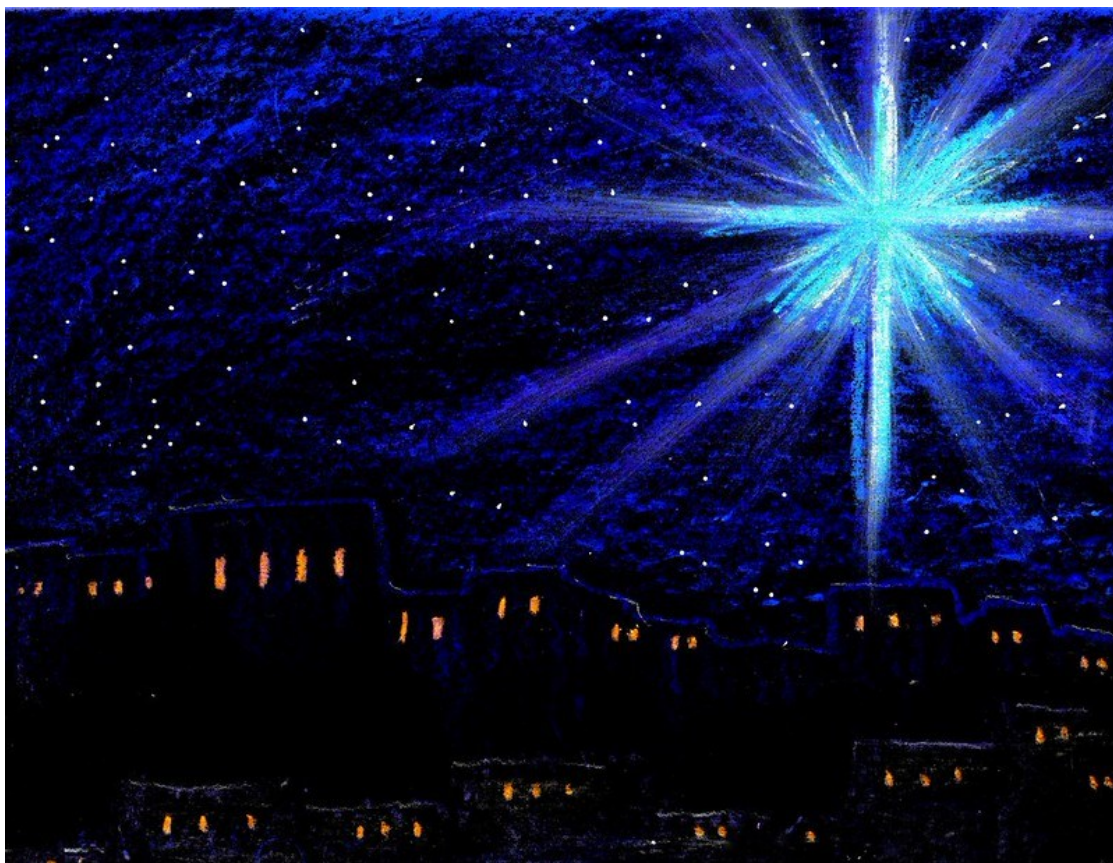




**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 2025
4:00 p.m.

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

** The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

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. 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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head
Sonata for Two Cellos
Divinum Mysterium*

Thompson
Thompson
Boccherini
Haan

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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 CAROL: ELW #269

Once in Royal David's City

As we sing, the Advent wreath is lit.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

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.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children are invited forward for a time together.

CAROL: ELW #277

Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7a

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING *A Child was Born in Bethlehem* Haan

READING: Luke 2:1-18

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father.**

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

¹³ And 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

CAROL: ELW #270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



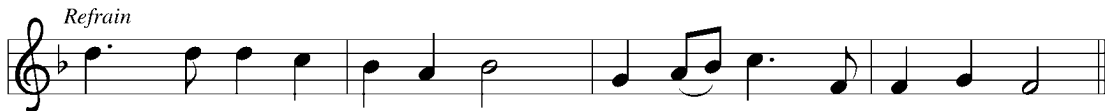
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Time for reflection follows the sermon.

CAROL: ELW #279***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

The assembly stands with the presiding minister.



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

PRAYERS

As we wait for the one who is Good News, we pray for the world, for the Church, and for all people.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven.

We pray for your Church, O God, that we might see we are united as your Body. Inspire all your children to tell the good news of your mercy on all the mountains, and to be your hands and heart at work in all the world.

He was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

We pray for your world, O God, for all who suffer violence and abuse, for all who suffer for conscience's sake, for the end of hatred and humiliation, war and famine, drought and disease. We pray for crops and animals, drought and floods, that all your creations may flourish.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

We pray for those in need, O God, for those who are in prison, for those who are ill, for those who hunger and thirst, for those struggling with depression, for all who suffer. We pray for those who care for others in your name, for nurses and physicians, aides and technicians, custodians and cooks.

He suffered death and was buried.

We pray for siblings who are dying, O God, for hospice workers and chaplains, for funeral directors and cemetery workers. Embrace all who grieve in the long nights of this winter season.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

We pray in thanksgiving for the saints gathered around your throne, O God, who have shone your glory by sharing your light. May their lives inspire our living.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

O God, Creator of the universe and hope of all ages, your mercy is the sign we long for. We commend into your outstretched arms all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, our savior and our hope.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Bethel Lutheran Church**, a diverse, urban ELCA congregation in the Miller neighborhood of Gary, Indiana (part of NW Indiana Conf. Of IK Synod) bethelmiller.org and facebook.com/bethelmillerbeach*



If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give or use [our CLC app](#) (download at clcvalpo.org/app).

OFFERTORY

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Burton

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

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.

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.

TABLE PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
You spoke your word of power and created all things, and without you not one thing was made.
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

You spoke your word of promise to Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, and created a people bound to you.

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

You spoke your word of longing through prophets and priests, outcast and unclean, calling your people to return to you.

who has spoken through the prophets.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your beloved children.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

On that day angels and shepherds sang for joy as your Word became flesh, coming among us as a defenseless baby. As his arms were tied in swaddling clothes, so later his hands were nailed to the cross, yet you made his birth and death the gateway to resurrection life.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Remembering his word of hope given for us, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen and Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

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

DISTRIBUTION

*The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

COMMUNION CAROLS:

ELW #296 *What Child is This*



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

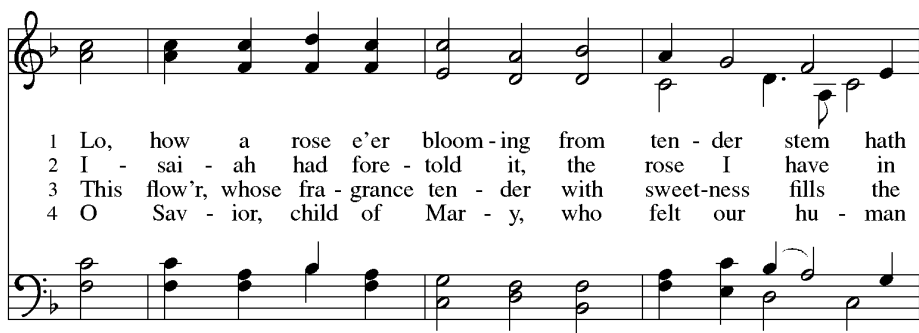


This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

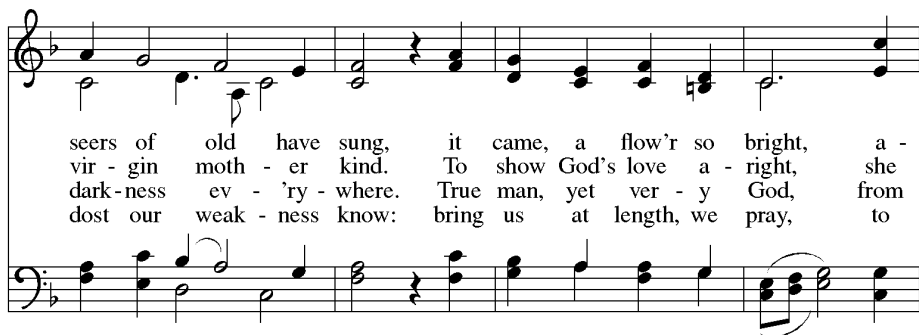
ELW #272 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*



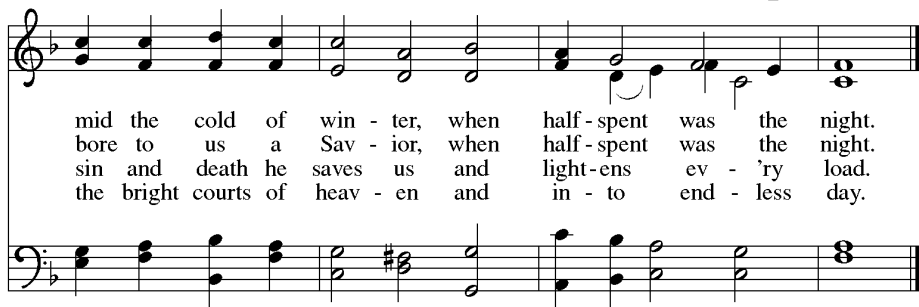
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

ELW #300 *The First Noel*



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

CANDLE LIGHTING

As the light is shared, remember: the lit candle is never tilted. The unlit candle is lifted up for lighting.

READING: JOHN 1:1-14

CAROL: *Silent Night*

*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 thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

READING: Luke 2:19-20

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,

✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

CAROL ELW #267

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Share God's Grace.

Thanks be to God.

Extinguish candles with care; place them in the baskets on the way out of the sanctuary.

Stay and listen to the postlude-or if you prefer, please take your conversations out to the Gathering Place.

POSTLUDE

A Christmas Package

Hanson

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!

THANKS to all who have given the beautiful poinsettias to the Glory of our Lord on this Christmas Eve:

Wes and Karina Barlow ~ In Honor of Carol Barlow/In Memory of Jon R. Barlow

Vickie and Gregg Copeland ~ In Honor of our Family/In Memory of Mary Jirik

Lucas and Sally Ecklund-Baker ~ In Memory of Jake Baker

Becky Fry ~ In Memory of John and Bea Beyer

Phil Hahn ~ In Memory of Laurel Hahn

Darla Hernandez ~ In Honor of the Hernandez Children/In Memory of Doris Peterson

Candace Jacques ~ In Honor of Janet Powell/In Memory of Margaret Rounds

Linda Mapes ~ In Honor of my Family

Tom Muchesko ~ In Honor of Betty Walkura/In Memory of Karen and John Muchesko

Robin Nelson ~ In Honor of Maddox and McKenna

Kathy Page ~ In Memory of Tom Page and Jody Steward

David and Charlene Smith ~ In Memory of Louise Huber and Christina Back

Ellen Swayne ~ In Honor of Family/In Memory of Gladys and Charles Swayne

Cheryl Watson ~ In Memory of Ken Watson

Vickie White ~ In Memory of Tom

Bethany White ~ In Memory of Nicholas

Plants may be picked up after the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or the following week.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Acolyte:	Lucas Ridley
Lector:	Venstrom Family
Prayer Assistant:	Darla Hernandez
Communion Assistants:	Becky Fry, Darla Hernandez, Madeline Fry, Amy Knauff
Ushers:	Doc Knauff/Furuness Family
Light & Sound:	Tony Reinhold
Livestream Technician:	
Pastors:	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even
Director of Music Ministries:	Brian Bartusch

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS Treble Makers Hand Chime Ensemble

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN

Matthew Jenetopulos
Elin Lewis
Ruthie Ridley

VIOLA

Aaron Fry
Violet Furuness
Atley Lewis
Lilly Soleim

CELLO

Daniel Gibson-Even
Lena Gibson-Even
Elinor Jenetopulos

FLUTE

Crystal Koss
Joey Rodeck
Gabby Soleim

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Jenna Abbring
Andrea Enisco Rodriguez

CLARINET

Dana Abbring
Karl Schmidt

TRUMPET

Luke Venstrom
Sam Venstrom
Joseph Enisco Rodriguez

FRENCH HORN

Rev. Erica Gibson-Even
Phil Hahn
Rev. Tim Knauff

BARITONE/TUBA

Jonah Knauff
Zach Wehner

STRING BASS

Joanie Furuness
Lucas Ridley

What Really Matters

“All the world should be registered” (Luke 2:1). This announcement from the emperor was an order for all people to stand up and be counted, to prove their worth by stating their name, their lineage, and the details of their existence, like the stats on the back of a trading card.

But an angel made a different sort of announcement: “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12). The shepherds would need to look for a baby just lying there, doing nothing but existing in all his God-given glory.

This baby is such good news in a world that tells us every day, in every possible way, that we need to prove our worth, that we need to convince the world and everyone around us that we matter. In what ways do you repeatedly try to prove your worth to the world? To your friends and family and colleagues? To yourself? To God?

What would it feel like—in your body, in your heart, in your gut—to just exist in all your God-given glory? To remember that the Savior of the world came to us as a baby who couldn’t do a single thing besides lie in the straw? And what would it be like for you—for all of us—to live each day in response to this wild grace?

Each of us matters to God, who sent Jesus into the world for us and all creation. God loves us, claims us in baptism, and continues to sustain us in holy communion. This indeed is good news of great joy for all people. Glory to God!



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