

CHRISTMAS DAY 2025



DECEMBER 25TH, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.
HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING THREE

INTRODUCTION

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.

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The service begins with thanksgiving for baptism. As possible, we invite people online to have a small glass or bowl of water ready by them, so as to mark themselves with water at the conclusion of the Thanksgiving for Baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Joy To The World (ELW 267)

The assembly stands as they are able.

GREETING (ELW p. 138)

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATION SONG: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (ELW 295)



SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

A reading from Titus.

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he

saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)

The assembly stands as they are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

The assembly is seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

The assembly stands as they are able.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
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.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**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.

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

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the intercessory prayers.

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this day and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION

Into your hands, gracious God, we commit all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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 (ELW p. 144)

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season

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:



SANCTUS *“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

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.

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.

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

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

At this time, the assembly may commune receiving the communion sacrament(s).

AGNUS DEI (ELW p. 154) "O, Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

TABLE BLESSING

The presiding minister offers a blessing.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

SENDING SONG: *The First Noel* (ELW 300)

The assembly stands as they are able to proclaim the word of God in song.

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 146)

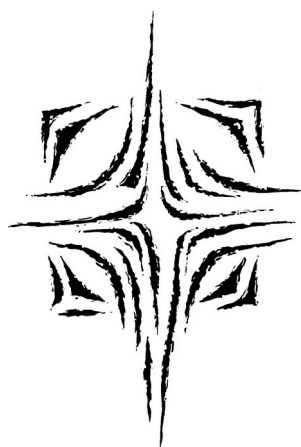
*The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission. The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.***

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

In Loving Memory of

All my loved ones ~ Virginia LaFalce
My parents Ruth & Martin, My brother & nephew Marty & Joshua ~
Gwendolyn Feldt
My grandmothers ~ Therese Paff
Barbara Kortrey and Joan Donohue - Eleanor and Mark Anderson

In Honor of

Parents, Grandparents and Godparents - Tobias Anderson & Stephen Honicki

In Thanksgiving to God for

Our Family ~ Robin & Sylvester Taliaferro

Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Reverend Tobias V. Anderson, Pastor

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