

CHRISTMAS EVE 2025



DECEMBER 24TH, 2025 | 7 & 11 P.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. 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

GATHERING SONG: *Oh Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)

The assembly stands as they are able.

GREETING

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

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

Christ is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

CONGREGATION SONG: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279 v.1&2)

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The assembly is seated for the reading.

A reading from Isaiah.

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 Counsellor, 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* (ELW 282 v. 1&4)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

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!”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

The assembly is seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)

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 (*places experiencing war or violence may be named*). 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 (*especially*). 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 night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows (*local joys and concerns may be named*). 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)

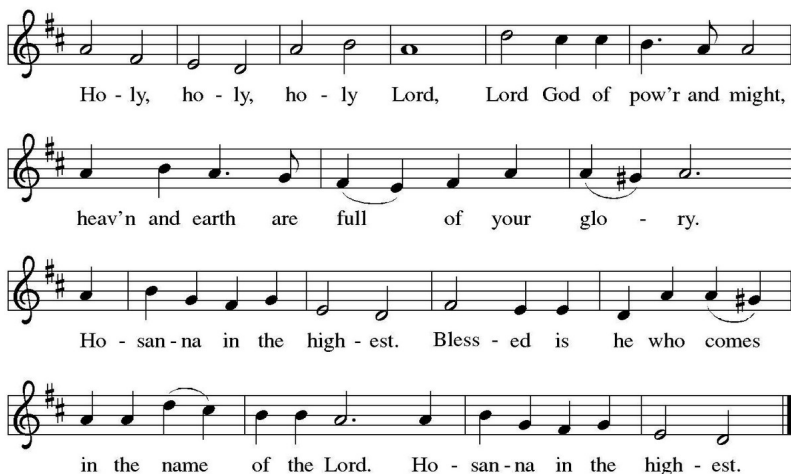
The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season

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”*



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)

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:
Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, 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.

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

COMMUNION SONG: *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277)

TABLE BLESSING

The assembly stands as they are able.

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.

CANDLE LIGHTING

As we celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus, a candle will be lit from the Christ Candle and the light of Christ shared with others.

To light a candle, please tilt the unlit candle atop the lighted candle to avoid spilling candle wax, and please help all younger children to avoid burns.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (ELW 281)



SENDING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

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

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 146)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

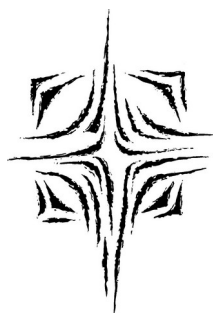
Thanks be to God.

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

Zhanna Crespo, Church Musician

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