Christmas Eve ✝ December 24, 2025, 7:00pm

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Archbold, Ohio

www.the-welcome-place.org

✢ Christmas Eve + December 24, 2025 ✢

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader

Bold text is spoken by the congregation

**Indicates to please stand as you are able*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" arr. Larson
"Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Larson

*PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

On this holy night, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and formed man and woman in God's own image.

Thousands of years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; the seven hundred and fifty second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

In the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary. Not just in some moment of the past, but now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh. Jesus Christ is born!

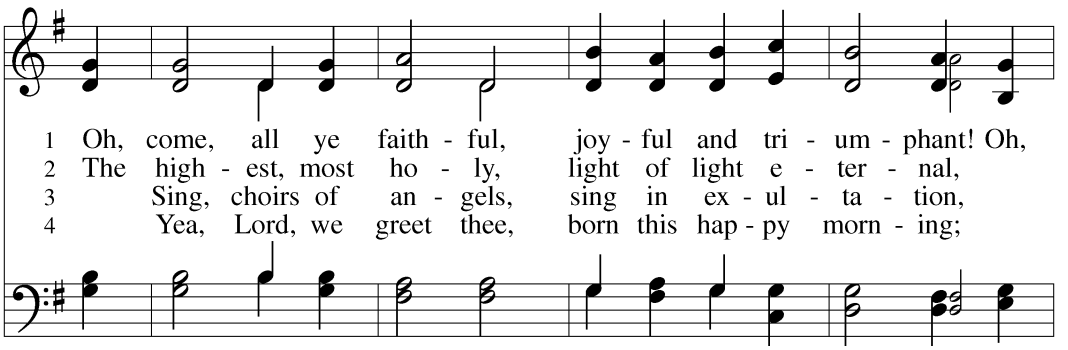
Glory to God in the highest!

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

Glory to God in the highest!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *"OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"*

(PLEASE SING VERSE 4 IN UNISON)



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!
come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:
Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

*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.

*Lighting the Advent Wreath & Prayer

Our Advent waiting is nearly finished.
Now is a time of fulfillment and celebration.

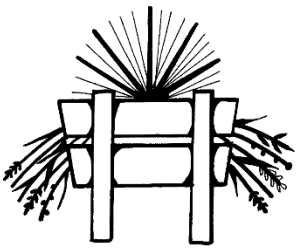
In the darkness of night, we give thanks for light.

We light a candle of hope:
hope for ourselves, and for God's beloved world.
We light a candle of peace:
peace in our hearts, and on earth.
We light a candle of joy:
joy to the world, and within our whole being.
We light a candle of love:
the promise of God's love for us, and for all creation.

We light the Christ candle,
the light of the world, the light of possibility.

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. Draw us into the mystery of your love and join our voices with the heavenly hosts, that we may sing your glory on high. Praise to Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever.

Amen



ANTHEM *"Ding, Dong! Merrily on High"*

Chancel Choir & Brass Quintet arr. Silverman

Ding dong, merrily on high!
The Christmas bells are ringing.
ding dong, verily the sky
is filled with angel singing.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

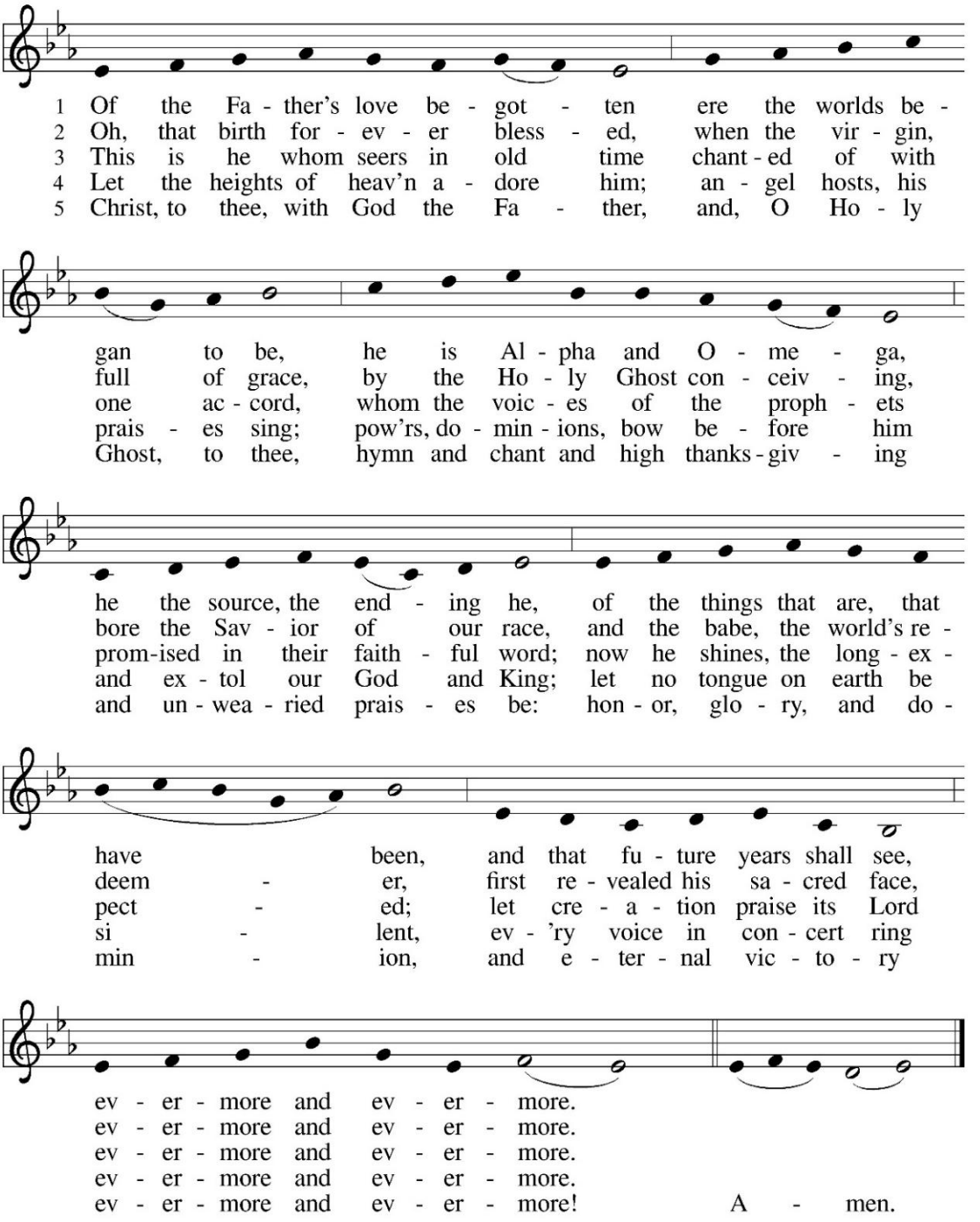
FIRST READING GENESIS 1:26-2:4

26 Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them
have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over
all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."
27 So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.
28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and
subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over
every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant
yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall
have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to
everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every
green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it
was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. 2 On the sixth day
God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work
that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested
from all the work that he had done in creation.
4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Word of God come down to us.
Thanks be to God

CAROL — "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"

(VERSE 2 – WOMEN AND HIGH VOICES ONLY; VERSE 4 – MEN AND LOW VOICES ONLY)



SECOND READING — ISAIAH 9:2-7

[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.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and
forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God come down to us.

Thanks be to God

*(Please remain seated for the Hymns unless indicated with a *****)*

CAROL — "IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

(PLEASE SING VERSE 4 IN UNISON)

THIRD READING — TITUS 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. **12** And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, **13** while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. **14** He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Word of God come down to us.
Thanks be to God

CAROL — "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

(PLEASE SING VERSE 3 IN UNISON)

FOURTH READING — LUKE 2:1-20

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.

[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." [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!"

[15]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." [16]So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. [17]When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; [18]and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. [19]But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. [20]The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Word of God come down to us.

Thanks be to God

*Carol "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

(Please sing Verse 4 in Unison)

*Fifth Reading John 1:1-5, 11-14

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being [4] in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. [5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

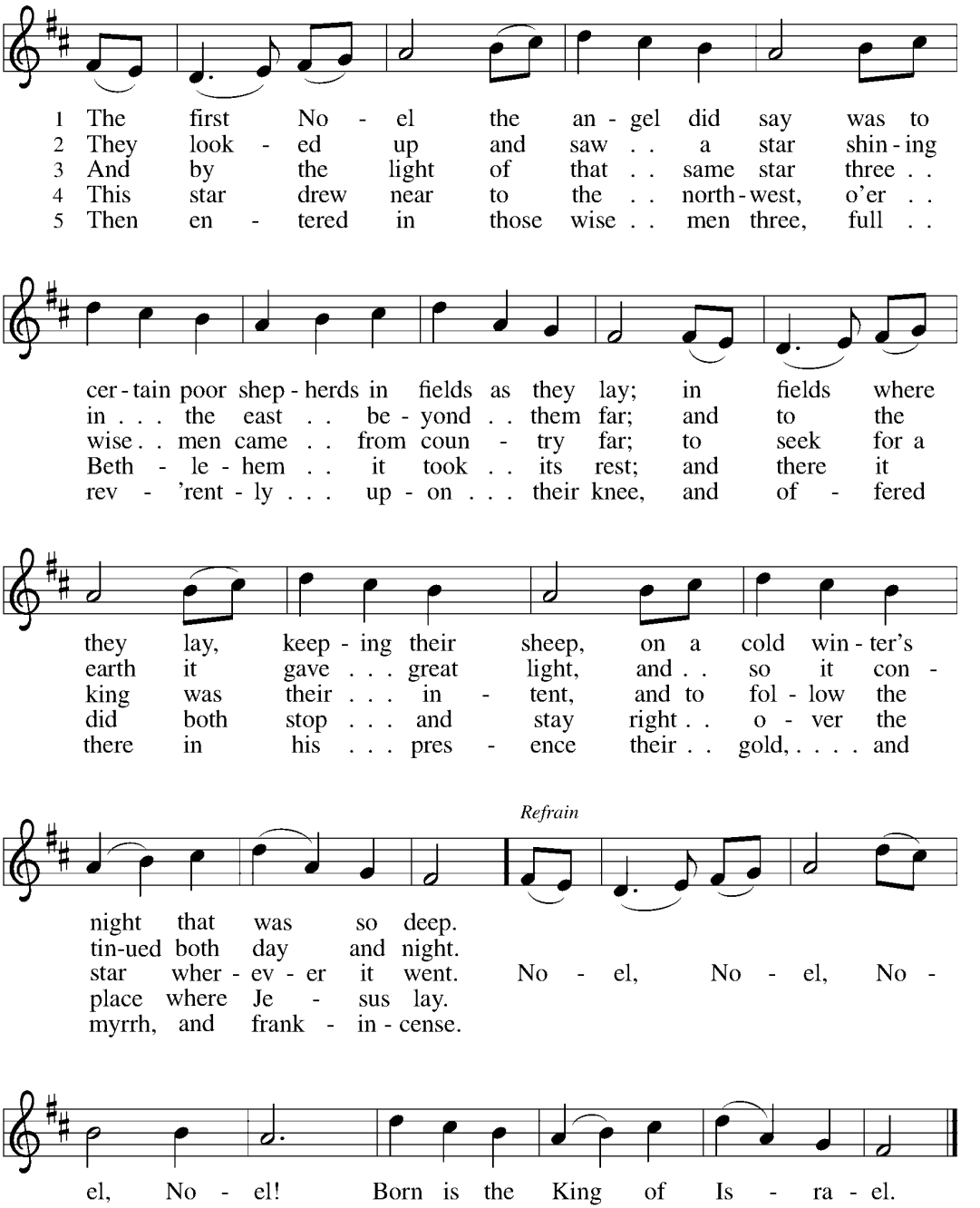
[11] He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. [12] But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

[14] 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.

Word of God come down to us.

Thanks be to God

CAROL — "THE FIRST NOEL"



MESSAGE — "FOR ALL SEASONS"

*CAROL "LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING"

(PLEASE SING VERSE 3 IN UNISON)

*PROFESSION OF FAITH – *Nicene Creed*

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.

*CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYERS

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always

And also with you.

(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you.")

OFFERING

"WHAT CHILD IS THIS?"

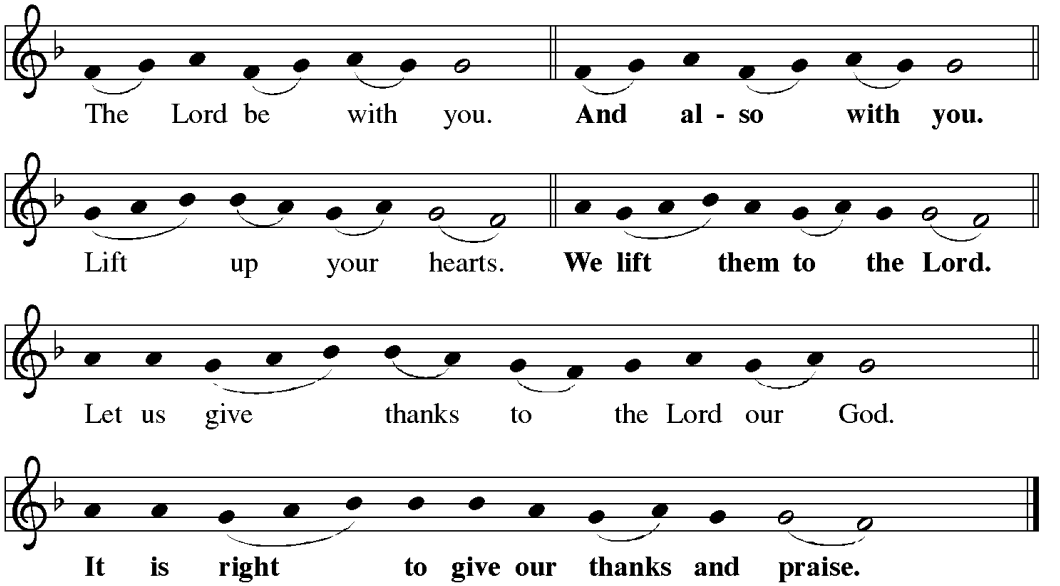
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Good and loving God,

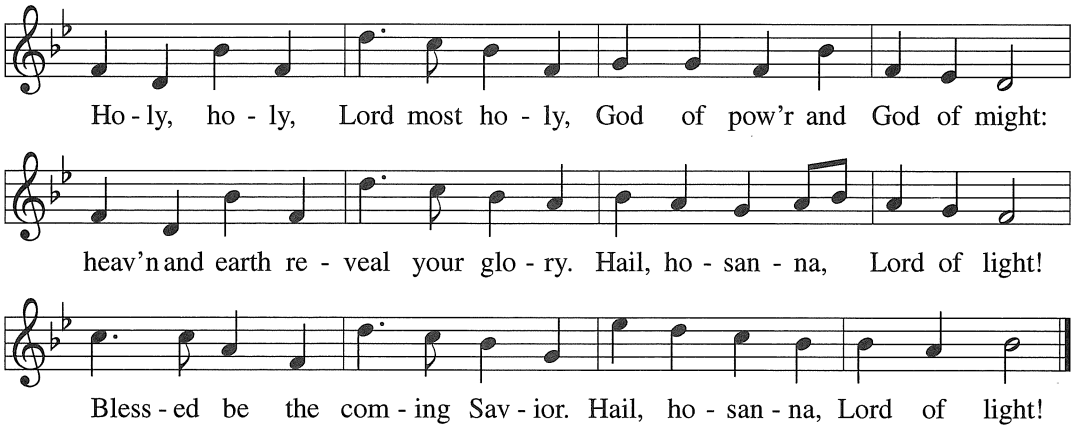
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. Prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

*THE THANKSGIVING



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:



(tune: "Angels from the Realms of Glory")

*Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, Creator of all and source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. On this holy night, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your sons and daughters.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

*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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America welcomes all baptized Christians who believe in the presence of Christ within the sacrament to receive Holy Communion.

Holy Communion will be distributed in a continuous fashion and in two lines. When invited by the usher, come down the center aisle to receive the Bread. After receiving the Bread, move to the side to receive the Wine by individual glass or by common cup. The light center ring of each individual glass tray contains grape juice. Place your empty glass in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle

Anthem **"Light of the World"**

Andrew and Rana Schmidt, soloists arr. A. Bergthold, E. Cash

HYMN: ***"ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"*** **LBW 71 (GREEN HYMNAL)**

*BLESSING

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

Amen

*PRAYER

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Strengthened by this sacrament, send us from this place so that we might share Christ's love with the entire world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

Amen

*CANDLE LIGHTING

The acolytes will receive their lighted candle and pass the flame to the congregation. Please pass the light by ***tipping the unlighted candle to the flame of a nearby lighted candle.***

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day.

In every age, you call imperfect people to be bearers of your light, bright with your wisdom.

Aflame with your righteousness, light the stars forever. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ, kindled by your Son's birth in the stable, magnified on the cross, and reflected in the lives of your holy people.

As we celebrate the gift of love sent to us in Bethlehem, we remember the light of hope for those in times of waiting, the hope shining for those with wearied souls, the light of hope for those watching for God's promised Glory, the light of reconciliation for any pain that has been caused.

Tonight, as the light illumines our faces, we radiate with the hope of Jesus Christ, whose life among us brings peace, hope, promise and reconciliation to all.

Amen.

CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO JOIN IN SINGING "SILENT NIGHT" →

*Hymn *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

*Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. *(John 1:14)*

Lord, now let your servants go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled.
Our eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of all people:
a light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel. Amen *(Luke 2:29-32)*

*Benediction

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.
And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen

You may extinguish your candle.
Please leave them in the boxes in the back of the Sanctuary as you leave.
We conclude with "Joy to the World" →

*Recessional Hymn — *"Joy to the World"*

(Please sing Verse 4 in Unison)

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Share the Good News!

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

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Worship Participants:

Preaching & Presiding:	Pastor Steve Basselman
Music Director/Organist:	Matthew Wachtman
Pianist:	Rick Breier
Trumpet:	Philip Hoverman, Paul Hoverman
Baritone:	Abbie Short, Josh Basselman
Tuba:	Kari Rosania
Percussion:	Mike Short
Lectors:	Abbie Short, Maddie Short, Addison Ziegler
Acolytes	Elli Benecke, Kayla Benecke, Andi Pinter, Emi Pinter

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Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one time donations directly from phones using this QR code.

To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

Our Worship continues…

TOMORROW + Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion – 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY + December 28 – 9:00 am Worship, No Sunday School

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Merry Christmas! We welcome you to worship as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please come back and worship with us again. Our regular schedule resumes January 4.

Regular Sunday Worship – 9:00 am + Sunday School – 10:20 am

Wednesday Informal Worship – 6:00 pm

www.the-welcome-place.org

2025 Christmas Poinsettias

Pat Basselman in honor of 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren
Jeff & Jo Ann Benecke in memory of Dexter & Janis Benecke and Joseph & Juanita Goubeaux and in honor of grandsons, Levi & Emerson
Dana & Peg Bjorlin in honor of our thankfulness for God's many blessings
Dana & Peg Bjorlin in memory of Wilbur & Doris Koerner and Paul Bjorlin and in honor of Doris Bjorlin
Jeff Mires & Gwen Grisier in memory of Eric Grisier & Julie Mires and in honor of our children
Philip & Carla Hoverman in memory of our parents, Carl & Fae Fogt and Howard & Katherine Hoverman
Linda Parnell in honor of our children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren
Dianne Parsons in memory of family
Michael & Tess Pinter in memory of Alexa & in honor of Maddox, Andi, Emi, & Audra
Greg & Nona Rupp in memory of Suellen Rupp & Steve Liechty and in honor of our children and grandchildren
Jay & Kiley Schnitkey in honor of our children Kasyn, Kaylee, Palmer, and Parker
Cristie Sevey in memory of Keith Sevey
Marilyn Sholl in honor of Greg & Nona Rupp
Don Spohler in memory of Sandie Spohler, Art & Anna Spohler, & Paul & Esther Greene
Sheryl & Scott Spohler in memory of Esther and Paul Greene, Sandie, Anna, and Arthur Spohler
The Trudel's in memory of Jon Trudel and Jim Neff and in honor of John & Janette Trudel
Bonnie Wyse-Meyer in memory of Steve Meyer
The Wyse Family in memory of Wayne & Mabel Wyse
Chris & Tim Ziegler in memory of Alexa Pinter, Harriette & Jr. Eicher and Jim & Willie Ziegler and in honor of our children and grandchildren
Sharon Ziegler in memory of Todd Ziegler