

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Marilyn Dichsen & Adam Krohe

– “Like a Rose in Winter,” arr. Handt Hanson & Paul Murakami

Gathering Song: “Joy to the World” ELW 267

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 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.

Dialogue and Prayer

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

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

C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Reader: Mike Fenner

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

First Carol: “Emmanuel”

*Refrain: Come, come, Emmanuel! Son of God, appear. Heaven and earth, rejoice!
Salvation is drawing near. Salvation is drawing near.*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

3. O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem; from ev'ry foe deliver them,
That trust your mighty pow'r to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

4. O Come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of humankind;
Make all our sad divisions cease, And be for us the King of Peace. *Refrain*

(Coda) Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Second Reading: Micah 5:2–5a

Reader: Pastor Adam

- ²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
- ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
- ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
- ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Second Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW 279

- 1 **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.**
- 2 **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!**
- 3 **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.**
- 4 **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!**

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Reader: Mike Fenner

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Third Carol: "Annunciation and Magnificat" soloist: Kelly Hartz

*Solo: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth
to a woman whose name was Mary.*

*The angel said to her "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you.
You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High."
And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."*

**All: 1. My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.**

**2. You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart.**

**You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.**

*Reprise: My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.*

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Pastor Adam

In 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Fourth Carol: “Love Has Come” ELW 292

- 1 **Love has come—a light in the darkness!**
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 2 **Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.**
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
- 3 **Love has come and never will leave us!**
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8–20

Reader: Mike Fenner

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!"

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. 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Fifth Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High" ELW 289

- 1 **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 **Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***
- 3 **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," *arr.* Stickles
Susan Roegge

—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God through the use of our time, talents, and finances—

**Preface (melody: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with you, his servant.**

P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

C: **With hearts uplifted**

Thanks to him we render.

With joy we come before him,

In gratefulness implore him,

With thankful hearts adore him,

Evermore.

P: Thanks and praise to you, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. 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. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: (melody: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”)

Holy, holy, holy Lord!

God of hosts, by all adored!

Heav’n and earth cannot contain

All the glory of your name.

Hail, hosanna, God most high!

Blest is he who now draws nigh

In the name of God the king,

Hallelujahs glad we sing.

Hail, hosanna! Praises due

Be forever, Lord, to you!

**Words of Institution* (melody: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”)

P: Lord Jesus Christ did on that night, The night he was betrayed,
Take bread and wine into his hands And say to all the same:
“Take, eat, this is my body giv’n; take drink, my blood sets you free.
I give them to you from this day forth, A feast in remembrance of me.”

**Lord’s Prayer* (melody: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”)

C: **Our Father, Lord on heav’n’s high throne,
Most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done.
On earth, in heav’n, the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead;
From evil set us free.**
**Yours is the kingdom; unto you In grateful love we bow;
And yours the pow’r; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.
The glory yours; your praise be sung
By all: by women, by men,
In ev’ry land, by ev’ry tongue Forevermore. Amen.**

Hymns during distribution:

“Away in a Manger” ELW 277

- 1 **Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2 **The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**
- 3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

- 1 **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!**
- 2 **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!**
- 3 **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!**

**After distribution* (melody: “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”)

C: Oh thank the Lord and sing his praise.

What he has done proclaim!

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice,

And proudly bear his name,

Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,

O tidings of comfort and joy.

Lord, let your servant go in peace.

Your word has been fulfilled.

Our eyes have seen the saving work

Which for the world you willed,

The glory of your people now, As light for all revealed.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,

O tidings of comfort and joy.

**Sixth Reading:* John 1:1-14

Reader: Pastor Adam

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

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**Benediction* (melody: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful")

P: The Lord bless and keep you,
Look with love upon you,
Be gracious, and cause his face
to shine with peace.

C: Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!
The Savior close beside us,
God's love from harm to hide us,
The Spirit's pow'r to guide us
Evermore!

**Sending Song:* "Go Tell It on the Mountain" ELW 290

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. **While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,**
behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light. Refrain
2. **The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth,**
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain
3. **Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;**
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Credits

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The poinsettias were donated by members and friends of Faith

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Barb Davenport

Greeter: Carol Freesen

Reader: Mike Fenner

Usher: Larry Kuster

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Musician: Susan Roegge

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Greg Kimler

Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Maddie Crossin

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Marilyn Dichsen

Greg Kimler

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Kay Schnitker

Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 28, 9:30am: Service of Lessons & Carols

Friends from Faith

Thursday, January 1 – **Happy New Year**

Saturday, January 3, 8:00am: Cooking for

9:00am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 4, 9:30am: Contemporary Worship

11:00am: Traditional Worship

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion. Throughout the rest of December, our crafts and activities will reflect the Christmas season, focusing on the message of hope we have in Jesus.

We are always grateful for our wonderful adult and “big kid” helpers. If you feel called to help with Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street, Liddy Stark, or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

Men's Breakfast

Come and connect with the men as we share our faith and enjoy good food on **Saturday, January 3!** At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

First Sunday Schedule January 4

We continue to offer two worship services on the first Sunday of each month. Contemporary at 9:30am and Traditional at 11:00am.

Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany

As we near the 12th day of Christmas, we join the three Magi in celebrating Jesus as a light to all nations. Each of our two services will be filled with light, and we are sent out to shine the Light of the World to others.

Contribution Envelopes for 2026 are available in the gathering area to start using in January. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please talk to Kris Roth, Barb Davenport, or Pam Devlin.

Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2025, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 11**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 25, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 18.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, starting after January 1, 2026. We will gather weekly at Faith to discuss our insights and reflections. We'll be utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin. Dates and time are to be determined. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Post-Service Discussions after Worship resume in January

In January, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Doorbell Dinners

Our next time to deliver is **January 12-16**. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales.

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$9.00** regular & decaf; **\$3.00** tea). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Bible Boot Camp & Confirmation

Stay tuned for a schedule for 2026!

Pillars Giving Tree

Bring Christmas Joy to the Children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry

This Christmas season, we again have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry. The Giving Tree in the gathering area is adorned with ornaments, each representing a child and their needs this Christmas. Choose an ornament, make your donation payable to HUGS, and place it in the offering box.

Your generosity will bring joy and hope to these precious children, reminding them that they are loved and valued. Thank you for helping make this Christmas a special one for

those in need. For questions or more details, please contact Melissa Street, Kevin Krohe, or Patty Nelson. Thank you for being a blessing this holiday season!

Prayer and Meditation

Prayer and meditation are ways that we invite God into our lives and into those for whom we pray. The health challenges facing Marilyn Dichsen have focused our congregation's attention on the importance of prayers for healing cancer in a gifted young woman. Marilyn's challenges have also brought to our attention all who are struggling with physical and mental health issues. Faith members are encouraged to pray for all who are in need wherever you might find yourself. The church sanctuary is open during regular church office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-1:00) for members to stop by and spend quiet time praying for Marilyn, her family, and all those who are in need of prayer. A prayer book is available at the back of the sanctuary by the tech station, along with the names of those who have been included in worship prayers and our prayer chain. Please sign your name and record your prayers or words of encouragement, if you so desire. The hope is that the time for prayer and meditation will be incorporated into our lives and the life of our congregation as a continuing ministry.