



First Sunday after Christmas

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

DECEMBER 28, 2025 | 10:30 AM

Holy Communion will resume on January 4, 2026

Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available upon request.

Holy Communion is...

- † The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ received “in, with, and under” the bread and wine for God’s People. *Matthew 26:26, 28*
- † Coming to the table believing the words “given and shed FOR YOU.”
Preparation might involve three questions:
Do I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? Am I sorry for my sins?
Am I ready to lead a new life?
- † God’s grace in “forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.”
Matthew 26:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 6:8-9; Romans 8:31-32



Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

Luke 2:30, 32



Welcome to worship at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Please scan the QR Code to register as our guest. You can also sign the Guest Registry located at the entrance to our Sanctuary.

Please turn off all electronic devices during our worship together, so that we can give glory to God without distraction.

Nursery: The room located at the back of the sanctuary (with windows into the sanctuary), has been set aside for children to be able to play comfortably during Worship. At this time, we ask a parent to remain with their child while using this space. There is a sound system located on the wall to the right after entering the room which allows you to listen to the service.

Please feel free to ask an Elder to assist you as needed.

Sanctus, Agnus Dei, Post-Communion Cantic: Text: Copyright © 2013 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- L** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation

LSB 151

- L** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- L** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Declaration of Grace

LSB 151

- L** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**



1 Come, your hearts and voice - es rais - ing, Christ the
 2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in
 4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's
 6 Gra - cious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -
 love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -
 fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -
 low - ly man - ger cheer us, Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
 tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
 tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.
 near us, Till we join Your choir a - bove.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit

Jeremiah 31:15-17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
 and out of Egypt I called my son.

**Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah,
 lamentation and bitter weeping.**

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”

**Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping,
 and your eyes from tears,**

for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD,

and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

There is hope for your future, declares the LORD,

and your children shall come back to their own country.”

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
 and out of Egypt I called my son.

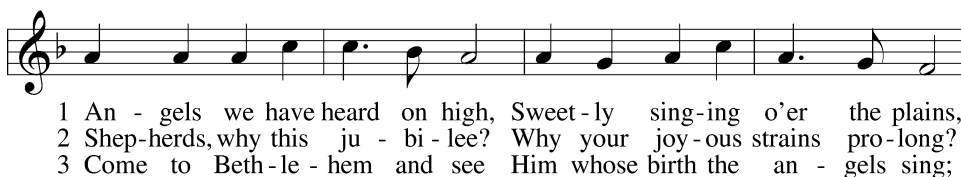
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.
Text and tune: French
Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7-14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely."
And he became their Savior.
⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
¹⁰But they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.
¹¹Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,
¹²who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,
¹³who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.

¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 111; antiphon: v. 9a, b

¹Praise the LORD!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
**²Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**
³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
**⁴He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**
⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.
**⁶He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**
⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;
**⁸they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!
**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

Let Our Gladness Have No End

LSB 381

1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!

For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain

On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save

us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Text: tr. unknown, alt.
Text and tune: Bohemian, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;
 she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

LSB 546

1 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! For
 2 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! With
 3 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! Joy

sin - ners You be - came a child. You came from
 God we now are rec - on - ciled. You have for
 fills the world which sin de - filed. What - e'er we

heav - en down to earth In hu - man flesh through
 all the ran - som paid, Your Fa - ther's righ - teous
 have be - longs to You; O keep us faith - ful,

hu - man birth. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
 an - ger stayed. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
 strong, and true. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Frieda Pietsch, 1904–82, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln
 Text and tune: Public domain

Reflection

Alex Predoechl

Stand

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Anthem

Night of the Father's Love
Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He, the source, the ending, He.
Of the things that are, that have been
and the future years shall see,

evermore and evermore.

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega.
Of the things that are, that have been,
and the future years shall see.
Of the Father's love begotten,
held in this nativity,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace
evermore and evermore.

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

Sleep in heavenly peace
evermore and evermore.

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Offering

Stand

Offertory

All My Heart Again Rejoices

LSB 360



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

L Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Now let Your servants go in peace,
Salvation have we seen here.
The Gentiles' light, for Israel joy,
In Jesus, Savior most dear.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby,
Joy, joy for Christ is born,

Benediction

LSB 166

L The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shipped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

WORDS: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
 MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

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Announcements

Dismissal

Postlude



Galatians 4:4 – “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.” Jesus was born under the law so that He might fulfill the law in our place. His perfect righteousness is credited to us. And it is this free forgiveness of sins and this crediting of righteousness that sets us free to follow our Lord in godly living. Since we are freed from the law’s condemnation, we are freed from any mercenary attitudes. Now that the Lord has shown His love to us in saving us, we freely show our thanks to Him in generosity, humility and kindness.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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