

# *The First Sunday of Christmas*



December 28, 2025

Welcome to worship! We are all glad that you're here.

Today is a worship of lessons and carols. We will read the parts of our scripture related to the Christmas story and sing the songs of Christmas season that so many people love. You are invited to participate as the Holy Spirit calls you. You may find today a good time to reflect on the story of Jesus birth and what it might look like if it happened this year. Who would be Mary and Joseph? Where would Jesus be born? Who would visit them? Who would want them dead? How would you react if you found out? What would change?

## *GATHER*

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor	It is Christmas and Jesus is born among us.
Leader	We come together and adore the baby who brings hope to the world.
All	<b>Jesus is born, he is our hope.</b>
Leader	We come together and adore the baby who brings peace.
All	<b>Jesus is born, the Prince of Peace.</b>
Leader	We come together and adore the baby who brings joy.
All	<b>Jesus is born, glory to God in the highest!</b>
Leader	We come together and adore the baby who brings love to the world.
All	<b>Jesus is born, he is the embodiment of God's love.</b>
Pastor	Let us come to the manger together and confess our sins to a Christ who has shown us a better way.
	Holy God,
All	<b>As the light of Jesus streams from the manger,</b>
	<b>we see how we have not loved God and our neighbor the way we should.</b>
	<b>We have given in to despair instead of hope.</b>
	<b>We have been hostile instead of peaceful.</b>
	<b>We have shared complaints instead of joy.</b>
	<b>We have ignored needs instead of showing love.</b>
	<b>Forgive us, God. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your grace and salvation.</b>

Pastor        The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with  
you all.  
**All**            **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## SONG

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

*ELW #288*

# WORD

## READING: JOHN 1:1-18

Reader        A reading from the Gospel of John.

*After the reading is finished.*

Reader        Word of God, Word of Life.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

## SONG

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

*ELW #275*

## READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

Reader        A reading from the book of Isaiah.

*After the reading is finished.*

Reader        Word of God, Word of Life.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

## SONG

*Away in a Manger*

*ELW #278*

## READING: LUKE 2:22, 36-40

Reader        A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

*After the reading is finished.*

Reader        Word of God, Word of Life.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

## SONG

*What Child Is This?*

*ELW #296*

## READING: MATTHEW 2:13-23

Reader        A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

*After the reading is finished.*

Reader Word of God, Word of Life.  
All Thanks be to God.

## SONG

*Once in Royal David's City*

*ELW #269*

## READING: LUKE 2:41-52

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

*After the reading is finished.*

Reader Word of God, Word of Life.  
All Thanks be to God.

## SONG

*Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming*

*ELW #272*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader God with us,  
All Hear our prayer.

## PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you all.  
All And also with you.

*You're invited to share a sign of peace but remember you don't have to shake hands! Share peace with your neighbor in the way that is best for you.*

## OFFERTORY

*If you wish to join us in ministry and worship with an offering of your wealth, you can give online by scanning this QR code or you can use the brown envelopes in your pew to make an offering by cash or check. Please also take this time to fill out the "Count Me In" card in your bulletin and drop it in the offering basket on your way to receive communion so that we know you were here!*



## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader Let's pray. God of glory,  
All Great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

# MEAL

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Lord be with you.  
All And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.  
All We lift them up to God.

Pastor Let us give God our thanks and praise.  
All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Just as Christ welcomes all people, all people are welcome at Christ's table here at First. We invite you to share communion regardless of your age, race, creed, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, social status, or physical or mental ability. There are gluten free wafers for those who need them. There is red wine and white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing in lieu of grain and grape, let the pastor know when you come forward. He will be happy to give you a blessing. If you need to receive communion in your seat, please tell an usher.*

## COMMUNION SONGS

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
*The Bells of Christmas*

*verses 1, 5, 6*

*ELW #276*  
*ELW #298*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader Let's pray. Incarnate God,  
All You are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

*SEND*

## BENEDICTION

## SENDING SONG

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*ELW #290*

## DISMISSAL

Leader God loves you, go love the world!  
All Thanks be to God!